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★★★ ABSW TURNS 1000! Pages 10, 11, 24 & 25 ★★★



Australia vs Italy



BATTLE BEGINS

Australia's Olympic dream kicks off

By John Economos

Tomorrow night in Melbourne, Australia's first Olympic Games battle begins with our most proud sporting nation having the most unenviable task of facing first up, the recently crowned Champions of Europe, Italy.

At 7:45 pm tomorrow, these two gladiatorial teams will file out into the 'arena of the Colosseum', (M.C.G.), to battle it out in the first game of the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

For Australia's Olympic coach, Raul Blanco, it seems that at last his long streak of horrendous bad luck with injuries has finally turned.

Injuries to his captain, flank-midfielder-cum-striker, Brett Emerton, plus to his exceptionally talented sweeper, Hayden Foxe, have now cleared.

From Melbourne last night, Blanco stated to ABSW: "Brett is fine and a scan done on Hayden shows everything is also okay there most thankfully."

Central marker and Derby County-based Con Blatsis, has pulled out of the match against Italy after sustaining a thigh injury in his last match in England before flying out to Melbourne.

It's now anticipated that Simon Colosimo and Stephen Laybutt could pair up as the twin markers with Foxe being the lateral defender.

Questioned on his thoughts of the Italians, Blanco stated: "This is going to be an encounter where we must be at our very best."

"We will be playing without any doubt, one of the World's richest nations in Soccer."

"I firmly believe that we have a team that is able to prove a point," stressed Blanco.

Spirit within the Australian squad rocketed over the weekend, with the most eagerly awaited arrival of \$18 million crack-striker, Mark Viduka and industrious midfield enforcer, Josip Skoko.

(continued Page 3)



Raul Blanco: Australia's Olympic coach.



Marco Tardelli: Coach of the Italian Olympic team

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HALL OF FAME
COLOUR PICTORIAL

Bill Turner Cup
Champions Special
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BOUTSIANIS TO SIGN



Con Boutsianis: Set to sign with Souths.

By Bert van Bedaf

Con Boutsianis is expected to sign for South Melbourne this week. Recovering from surgery on his right knee, Boutsianis is confident he can renew his attacking role at his former club this coming season.

He scored the deciding goal in South's championship winning grand final against Carlton three seasons ago.

After two seasons with Perth Glory and a three-month trial at English club Bolton Wanderers, Boutsianis said he was happy to be back in his home-town.

"I'm going to sign," Boutsianis said. "I'm looking forward being back at South. I wanted to be back home again and be part of a championship winning team."

"I had two good seasons at Perth, but playing under (new South coach) Micky Petersen was an incentive to return," Boutsianis said.

Meanwhile, South captain Paul Trimboli, also recovering from a knee operation, said he was looking forward to the coming season.

"The team is getting their energy back after last season. The last three years have been pretty intense and finishing 10th last season did not sit well with the team," he said.

Despite competing in the inaugural world cup for clubs against such world giants as Manchester United, Trimboli believed, "We stillunderachieved last season".

Furner converts to Soccer

By Graham Cooke

Former Australian and Canberra Raiders rugby league coach Don Furner is an enthusiastic convert to soccer - working at Bruce Stadium as a volunteer during the Olympic Games period.

"I'm on the retired list these days, but when I heard they were looking for volunteers for the soccer I jumped at the chance," he says.

"This is the Olympic Games, and as soon as I knew we were going to get some of it here, I thought it would be great to be involved."

"I'm for all sports. Obviously rugby league is my first love, but I've sat up late at night watching soccer - Manchester United, Liverpool, Brazil...I've seen the finest teams play, and how couldn't you fail to appreciate the great skills?"

"They can do a lot with their feet that our fellows can't do with their hands."

For the last couple of months Furner has taken time off from the golf course and is now firmly established as the assistant venue staffing manager at Bruce, handing out the meal vouchers and generally trying to keep people happy.

"I'm here through the week and all day on Sundays, and on match nights it will be all day and into the evening," he says. "I think it's worthwhile when I see the volunteers and how enthusiastic they are."

"We are the off-field team which is making things happen, and I am proud to be a part of it."

Not that he has ever properly retired. He can never resist the call to help out local clubs in difficulties and most recent-



Don Furner: Loves the soccer.

ly has accepted an invitation to coach the Fijian national team at the Rugby League World Cup in England at the end of next month.

"I was honoured to be invited after helping out with their league over there," he says. "I am a firm believer that if league is to prosper we must do more to help the smaller nations who still play the game."

Furner agrees that Canberra Cosmos coach Tom Sermanni will have a tough time attracting players to a bottom club.

"I'm supportive of Tom and the Cosmos because the National Capital should be represented in these competitions. It's terribly disappointing when you see young, talented players, in whatever sport, having to head off to Sydney and Melbourne because there are no opportunities here."

KNIGHTS SIGN NEW STRIKER

By Bert van Bedaf

The Melbourne Knights have signed a Portuguese striker from Holland.

The visa-player, Toto Dacosta, is expected to arrive in Melbourne on Friday in readiness for the second round of the Tynan-Eyre Cup on Saturday.

Dacosta has been playing for

Eindhoven in Holland's second division and has looked impressive on video, according to Knights coach Vlado Vanis.

"I watched him on a couple of tapes and he looks excellent. He looks sharp," Vanis said.

"He knows how to score and has excellent control of the ball. We'll just have to see how he survives in Australian soccer," he said.

TALKING WITH MR ED



Well, only nine months ago the world celebrated the new millenium and this week we celebrate a millenium of our own.

Congratulations to us! 1000 editions! And what luck that it falls on the eve of the Olympic Games in Sydney.

This is a bumper issue of ABSW with a special section dedicated to ABSW's past 20 years.

You'll find a look back at the past editors and our current crew on page 9 as well as a feature length story on Soccer Weekly stalwart John Economos on page 11.

There is a full nostalgic look at ABSW's from years gone by on pages 24 & 25 as well.

We hope you enjoy our trip down memory lane.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank every Journalist, photographer, contributor, employee and reader of ABSW over the past 20 years. No edition would ever have been possible without all of the above over many years. ABSW looks ahead with anticipation at 1000 more.

The Olympic Games have finally arrived and coach Blanco can finally start worrying about football instead of injuries. We take an in-depth view of every team with a comprehensive look at potentially our first medal-winning team

(pages 12 & 13).

One last time on the eve of the games, ABSW wishes Blanco and his troops the very best for Gold.

The Greek Australian Sporting Hall of Fame was announced last week and we have a special colour pictorial of the big event in this week's centre pages.

The Bill Turner Cup has also drawn to a close with the winners being decided. There is a double page special wrap on the trophy on pages 18 & 19.

Ronaldinho seems to be in all the news lately. He was the catalyst for the Brazilian's 4-0 victory over Marconi (page 9) and is the subject of a massive transfer move to Italy (page 3).

And finally, one last word on the Olympic games. All of Melbourne please get out and make life as difficult as possible for the Italians on Wednesday night. This is the biggest event Melbourne has staged since the 1956 Games and it is bigger than the AFL grand final! Let's support our boys and create the cauldron atmosphere that the MCG is famous for.

Go Australia!

Ed.

Cosmos hold US team to 0-0

By Graham Cooke

After difficult weeks of steering the club to survival, Canberra Cosmos chairman Danny Moulis was delighted to receive two bits of good news within hours of each other on Sunday.

First the Cosmos' newly constituted youth team brought off a win in the inaugural ACT open six-a-side tournament, beating favourite Canberra Deakin 5-1 in the final.

And that evening the club's senior team held the United States Olympic side 0-0 in

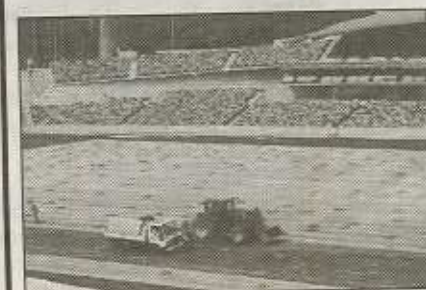
a training match at Ainslie Oval.

It was a remarkable performance from the Cosmos in their first game since surmounting financial problems.

A side hastily put together by coach Tom Sermanni, who himself had to take a few hours off from his job as SOCOG's technical director in Canberra, played with strength and purpose.

Despite being caught several times by the speedy US forwards, a defence ably marshalled by captain Robbie Hooker, plus an outstanding display by goalkeeper Angelo Konstantinou, denied the Americans a breakthrough.

BRUCE WILL BE READY



Bruce Stadium 12 days before the games.

It looks a hopeless case, but the Melbourne company charged with re-laying the turf at Bruce Stadium are confident a surface will be in place that will satisfy FIFA and SOCOG officials. This picture was taken just 12 days before the opening matches - Australia v Germany in the women's competition and United States v Czech Republic (men) - are scheduled to be played.

ABSW's new email: soccer@foreignlanguage.com.au
soccerweekly@hotmail.com still available

Ronaldinho: \$45 million man

By John Economos



Ronaldinho: Brazil's deadly, but extremely friendly, Olympic Games striker.

Brazil's dynamic 20-year-old strike-ace, Ronaldinho, was easily one of the very most sought-after players last Sunday afternoon at the Marconi Stadium by adoring fans straight after Brazil's exhibition match against Marconi.

The final scoreline was irrelevant, (Brazil won 0-4), as the 12,000 plus excited fans crammed into the Stadium, hungrily seeking to be entertained by large doses of Brazilian Soccer magic.

Nobody was unduly concerned what the score would be after 90 minutes.

What was of paramount importance was for the hungry Soccer fan to be urgently injected with large doses of colour, skills, flair

and electricity.

Ingredients that only teams from Brazil, over many decades, have managed to notoriously generate with monotonous regularity.

Again the fans were not going to be disappointed.

The drums were beating out a Latin American rhythm.

The Marconi pitch looked most magnificent, having been returned for S.O.C.O.G.

The game kicked off and the Brazilians went straight to 'work' as they started to entertain. Flicks here, back heelers there, twisting and turning past defenders.

Suddenly Brazil hit the front through that skinny lad, Ronaldinho.

The Gremio super-star striker, (Ronaldinho), currently valued at \$45 million by two Italian giant clubs that are in the hunt for his signature, had scored the first goal for Brazil.

More Brazilian magic was unfolded as Ronaldinho exploded with creativity to easily set up Geovanni to nail the target. Marconi 0-Brazil 2.

The fans were ecstatic as they were now getting their 'fixes', and in large doses, that sent their blood racing with excitement and joy.

Ronaldinho's extremely slender frame, completely camouflages the explosive power of acceleration as well as his deceptive deposits of skills.

His elastic body swerves, com-

pounded by his large and wide striding raids, enables this little Brazilian ace marksman to easily slice past defenders.

Fans after the match raced around behind Marconi's main Grandstand to get near Brazil's team bus.

However S.O.C.O.G. had erected portable wire security fencing set in concrete blocks to seal off the entire back area where the team bus was parked.

The slimly built striker Ronaldinho, saw a group of adoring fans clinging to the wire fencing and calling out his name. Calm as a cucumber, the ever-smiling Ronaldinho slowly strolled right past ABSW and over to the fence where he touched the fans and signed some autographs.

After spending a few minutes chatting with them through the fence, and to the amazement of a large number of members of the T.R.G. standing around, Ronaldinho casually turned to make his way back to his teammates on the bus.

As he slowly again walked past ABSW to climb on the bus, Ronaldinho's skinny dark-skinned face cracked open into a massive smile, as if to say: "It's no big deal, those fans were just great and good to see."

He's 20 years old and already highly valued on the European transfer market.

He's the \$45 million kid.



Bankstown City Cubs

Super Youth & Super Cadet League Trials

Bankstown City Cubs, a joint venture between Bankstown Amateur Soccer Association and Bankstown City Lions Soccer Club, will be holding trials for season 2001 as follows:

Trials Dates:

Under 14, 15 & 17 Sept 12 & 14

Under 11, 12 & 13 Sept 13 & 15

All trials will be held at

O'NEILL PARK
YAGOONA

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Battle Begins

Continue from front page

Blanco went on to state: "Since these two players came into the camp, it has been nothing less than a breath of fresh air, especially after so many players had dropped out over recent weeks for one reason or another."

"Mark has a huge stature not only as a player, but also as a man with his extraordinary humbleness."

"The training sessions really sparked up with their, (Viduka and Skoko's) arrival," a most pleased and gratified Blanco confessed.

It's expected that Blanco will release his team line-up late this afternoon at the Hilton

On The Park Hotel at East Melbourne.

After Italy, Australia faces Nigeria this Saturday (16th) at the Sydney Football Stadium, also at 8 pm.

Australia's last match in Group A will be against CONCACAF champions, Honduras today week, (Tuesday 19th), at the Sydney Football Stadium at 8 pm.

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20:00 Men — Australia v Nigeria	— LIVE
Tuesday 19 September	— Day 3
17:30 Women — Australia v Brazil	— LIVE
20:00 Men — Australia v Honduras	— LIVE
Sunday 24 September	— Day 9
17:30 Women Semi Final	— LIVE
Tuesday 26 September	— Day 11
20:00 Men Semi Final	— LIVE
Thursday 28 September	— Day 13
17:00 Women Bronze Medal	— LIVE
Friday 29 September	— Day 14
07:00 Women Gold Medal	
20:00 Men Bronze Medal	— LIVE
Saturday 30 September	— Day 15
21:30 Men Gold Medal	
Sunday 1 October	— Day 16
11:00 Women Gold Medal	

C7 GAMES

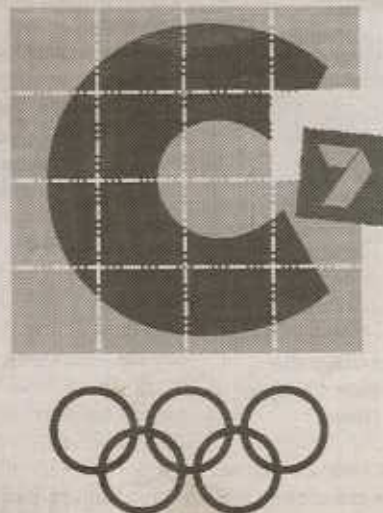
Saturday 16 September	— Day 1
22:00 Men — Italy v Honduras	
Sunday 17 September	— Day 2
07:30 Men — USA v Cameroon	
17:30 Women — USA v China	— LIVE
20:00 Men — Brazil v South Africa	— LIVE
Tuesday 19 September	— Day 4
07:30 Men — Spain v Chile	
21:30 Men — Italy v Nigeria	
Wednesday 20 September	— Day 5
17:30 Women — USA v Nigeria	— LIVE
22:30 Men — Brazil v Japan	
23:30 Men — Slovakia v South Africa	
Friday 22 September	— Day 7
07:00 Men — Slovakia v South Africa	
Saturday 23 September	— Day 8
20:00 Men Qtr Final	— LIVE
22:00 Men Qtr Final	
23:30 Men Qtr Final	
Sunday 24 September	— Day 9
06:30 Men Qtr Final	
Tuesday 26 September	— Day 11
22:00 Men Semi Final	
Sunday 1 October	— Day 16
08:30 Men Gold Medal	

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The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

NIGERIAN Olympic Official, Bolaji Ojo-Oba, upon arriving in Adelaide last week with his current Gold Medal holding team, and exhibiting immense humility, shot off his mouth to the media by stating: "Australia want to do well and will do its best to upstage the defending champions (Nigeria)."

"I think we're ready. We're not worried about the Australians." Great stuff Bolaji. Great to hear you said that.



Brett Emerton:
Australia's Olympic captain.

'Good Oil' firmly believes that such a bold arrogant statement like yours is just what Raul, Brett and the Aussie lads really wanted to hear.

Such Nigerian public arrogance must surely be worth, at the very least, a goal start to Raul Blanco's team come this Sunday when the two sides clash in Sydney.

CLAUDIO CANOSA, the former Gippsland Falcons' giant centre-back, now in the official role as the Australian Olympic video analyst, brought some very much needed laughter into the Australian training camp in Melbourne.

Tensions in recent days have rapidly been building up within the Australian squad for tomorrow's first Olympic match against Italy at the M.C.G.

The Hilton Hotel where the Australian Olympic team is based, now resembles a fortress.



Claudio Canosa: A big splash for the Australian Olympic team.

Stacked with security on every floor and at every exit and entrance, the atmosphere

has intensified so much that some nerves are starting to strain.

So it was absolutely magnificent for the Australian players at a recent Australian training session, when Canosa's towering figure, all decked out with his new Nike Olympic gear, suddenly slipped at a training ground.

Big Claudio went hurtling down a 20 foot embankment 'A over T' and came to a grinding halt right into a pool of thick mud.

With his brand new Nike gear now totally saturated, the giant Claudio slowly but surely scrambled back up the embankment with mud dripping off him.

The Australian lads in unison just cracked up with much needed laughter that broke down all tensions, but left poor old Claudio just a little from being impressed.

REAL MADRID's president Florentino Perez was squealing to the media last week about the Club's financial dire straits it finds itself in today.

Some \$ 430 million in the red.

How on Earth does this man really expect to provoke any sympathy from the Soccer public?



Figo: \$96 million now causing hiccups for Real.

When he's firing off mega buying bids like the \$96 million he blasted recently to buy Portugal ace, Figo, (just a player, not a multi-levelled modern building in Collins street, Melbourne), that's when he should've been worrying. Not now.

The same principle applies to many of our own NSL clubs.

They commit themselves into paying transfers they can ill afford, or even extending ludicrous and exorbitant contracts to players of just very ordinary quality.

NSW SUPER LEAGUE's brilliant goalkeeper Fernando Greco, one of Blacktown City's recent 'Grand Final heroes, parted company with the 'Red and Blacks'.

It's believed that the super-talented 26-year-old custodian is about to sign

with, ironically, this season's Grand Final losers, Bonnyrigg White Eagles.



Fernando Greco: Blacktown City's keeper moving to Bonnyrigg White Eagles.

MARCONI last Sunday afternoon in its exhibition match against the Brazilian Olympic team, fielded their latest triallist, burly Queensland striker Royce Brownlie.



Royce Brownlie: Marconi's latest triallist.

With almost 20 minutes left of play, Marconi's coach Eddie Krncevic threw the 19-year-old Brisbane Lions' goalscorer into the fray.

Not at all overawed by the highly illustrious and athletic Brazilians, Brownlie did very well and it is understood he pleased Krncevic with his display.

The Queenslander was rushed down from Brisbane on Sunday morning to turn out for Marconi.

THE AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC team is not the only side staying at the Hilton On the Park on Wellington Parade in East Melbourne.



Hayden Foxe: Australia's fabulous libero.



The Womens' Olympic Soccer squads from Brazil, Sweden and World Champions the USA are also based at the Hilton.

No real big deal here. However, last week Marco Tardelli's Italian Men's team also lobbied into the Hilton.

Almost immediately 'Cold War' of deathly silence was ignited between the European Champions and the Australians.

The vigorous 'Vegemites' have taken up the 10th floor of the Hilton almost to themselves.

The Italian Olympic squad set up their headquarters on the eighth level.

The Italians who arrived at the Hilton with a massive contingent, are reported to be most aloof whenever crossing paths with the Australian players.

Frosty looks are cast between the respective players and some of the coaching staff, in either the lobby or in the elevators.

Included in the Italian contingent, are no less than THREE 'video analysts'.

WHILST, (most unfortunately), Australia has experienced some unashamedly 'prima donna' players that have unforgivably refused to play in the current Olympics, we on the other hand really do have some very special, World class players, that are proudly prepared to die for the 'Green and Gold'.

Three of the most glaring examples have to be Australia's current three 'Over aged' (over 23 years) players, lethal striker Mark Viduka, industrious midfielder Josip Skoko and dazzling left mobile wing-back, Stan Lazaridis.

From the moment these three senior and experienced Olympic players lobbied into the Australian

training camp in Melbourne, all three have embraced the younger members of the squad.

With 'zero egos', there's not a single thing that all three 'seniors' won't do for the Australian team.

All three are constantly mixing, talking to the younger ones, joking, advising them etc.

No problems whatsoever. Take Leeds United's 'V' Bomber, (Viduka), as a prime example.

Since arriving in Melbourne late last week, almost at every training session, or inside the Hilton Hotel, Police and security personnel, have been repeatedly requesting the \$18 million goal-ace to autograph a Soccer shirt, a ball or piece of paper.

"Sure, no problem pal," is Viduka's prompt and standard reply.

One of 'Good Oil's' spies stated to this column last night: "This bloke (Viduka) is just a magnificently natured kid."

"He's a super star overseas, yet so easy going, down to earth and so strongly proud in wearing the Australian shirt."



Mark Viduka: Top class player and really top class guy.

"Just fantastic. And as far as Stan (Lazaridis) and Josip (Skoko) are concerned, they're the same. Very friendly, very approachable and easy."

"Nothing is a problem for them. It seems that nothing is a big deal other than playing for Australia," he informed.

That's why all three are stars and real winners.

Humility comes from within.

It's a quality that can't be bought in a chemist shop or cultivated.

Australia will always be very, very proud of you guys.

THE LAST of the five 'Joe Watson Fund-raisers,' was staged last Sunday as a real 'Family Day' at Jellicoe Park, Pagewood.

There were jumping cas-

ties for the kids, a large BBQ, a river of drinks, plus three games which were played: 'Scotland vs Australia' at noon, followed by 'Rangers vs Celtic' and finally the Merseyside-massacre, 'Liverpool vs Everton'.



Alex Robertson: Former international sweeper.

Alex Robertson's super organising committee for the past two months showed tenacity, excellent efficiency plus extreme diligence in their task whilst planning the five huge and various functions that raised urgently needed funds for their former playing team-mate, the legendary, now seriously ill, Joey Watson.

Mr Robertson and your

undergoing re-turfing or booked out by S.O.C.O.G. as training venues for the Olympics), this charity match will be played at Lambert Park on Marion street at Leichhardt this Sunday.

If you have nothing to do on Sunday afternoon, why not wander over to Lambert Park and see this exhibition match.

Players from both teams, the referee plus linesmen and all officials, have kindly donated their services for the afternoon free of all fees.

Please help them to help the 16 year old Newcastle lad.

Admission charge is just \$10:00, with all proceeds going to the seriously injured teenager.



Troy Halpin: Sydney Olympic's new midfield signing.

Sydney Olympic vs Canterbury Marrickville, this Sunday, September 17th.

Kick off 4pm. Please make the effort. BE THERE.

CLUB MARCONI last week paid no less than \$20,000 to have the Brazilian Olympic team fly down from Brisbane to play an exhibition match against Marconi last Sunday afternoon.

Although admission was free, the promoter S.O.C.O.G. would not allow Marconi to sell any food or drinks within the Stadium.

And if that wasn't stringent enough, every single advertising signage inside the Stadium surrounding the playing pitch, had to be completely and totally covered by hundreds of metres of blue plastic sheeting.

One hour before kick-off, the gates were ordered to be closed with just under 12,500 inside the ground and with another 1,500 outside refused further entry.

Brazil, as expected, overwhelmed a jaded Marconi side with two goals in the first half, (Ronaldinho, Geovanni), whilst second half substitute Lucas added the final two.

A tired but gallant Marconi who was kept scoreless by Brazil, had played two matches in the previous 72 hours in the Newcastle Challenge tournament,

The Good Oil ...

(which they won). Marconi played against Sydney Olympic last Thursday and then Newcastle in the Final last Saturday afternoon.

Starring for Marconi against Brazil, was 24-year-old goalkeeper David Aceski who filled in for first team goalie, Michael Turnbull absent on national duty in Melbourne with the Australian Olympic squad.

As well, Aceski starred for Marconi in the Newcastle Challenge Tournament Final the previous day, stopping no less than three penalties in the 'shoot-out decider' against the Newcastle Breakers.



David Aceski: Marconi's goalie, best against Brazil.

WANDERLEY LUXEMBURGO, Brazil's Olympic coach, last Sunday straight after the exhibition game against Marconi, at the Marconi Stadium, agreed with S.O.C.O.G.'s security to briefly meet the media, but only near the fence in a cordoned off area, and not inside the main Grand Stand where Marconi has a Conference Room.

So out of the Media Room we all quickly scrambled to get downstairs to the rendezvous spot at the steel fence in front of the Grand Stand.

What a huge mistake by 'Good Oil' who just wanted to get near and listen to the brilliant but brazen Brazilian boss, through a translator.

Problem No 1 was the massive task of penetrating to get through an army of Police security, including the T.R.G.

Once into the cordoned off area, 'Good Oil' quickly showed good 'positional play' by making a bee-line for the fence.

'Made it. Front row in fact. Can't miss a thing now', one foolishly to himself muttered.

What 'Good Oil' totally failed to gauge, or even expect, was the enormity and ruthlessness of members of the South American media, (both electronic and print), that had attended the Marconi Stadium.

There were at least 30 of them, including seven with shoulder-hoisted and

strapped t.v. cameras.

As soon as Luxemburgo veered from the pitch and headed for the fence, instantly the South American media scrum rudely and physically surged forward crushing all in front of them.

'Good Oil' included.

'Good Oil' was just less than a foot away from Luxemburgo when all of a sudden this huge, very beefy and heavily whiskered t.v. cameraman, (possibly a Brazilian cousin of Glenn Lazarus), arrogantly powered forward like a wild bull to get a clearer and closer shot of the Brazilian boss.

In so doing, he slammed his massive body into 'Good Oil', not only heavily and painfully crushing your humble columnist up against the steel fence, but simultaneously followed up with a heavy left elbow smash to the side of the jaw, whilst tightly gripping his camera unit saddled across his left shoulder.

Gasping for oxygen, 'Good Oil' yelled at the 'Brazilian Lazarus' to back off.



Wanderley Luxemburgo: Brazil's Olympic coach.

'Good Oil's' desperate pleas not only fell on deaf ears, but seemed to signal to this 'electronic media pig' to use his powerful body to surge even further forward to gain an extra few vantage centimetres.

The Sydney Morning Herald's towering lead Soccer writer, Michael Cockerill, also became entangled in a verbal volley of words with 'Lazarus' who instantly hit back with a staccato of heated words, but all in Portuguese.

There was violence right there, for all to see, including nine members of the T.R.G. who stood very nearby and watched this most alien, (in Australia that is), behaviour, by visiting members of the electronic media.

Meanwhile 'Lazarus' would be far better off, should he one day return from Brazil to Australia, to come back not as a camera-



By John Economos

man, but as a front-rower to replace his retiring cousin from the Canberra Raiders.

THE SEVEN NETWORK which has the exclusive rights to the Olympic Games, has drafted in SBS' ace match commentator Paul Williams to call



Paul Williams: Calling games for Seven at Olympics.

at the Olympics.

Heavens help Bray, (obviously not conversant with Soccer names), when the time comes for him to call games involving the current Gold Medal holders, the Nigerians.

THE AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC team has an efficient system of fines in operation at their training camp in the Hilton Hotel in Melbourne.

Any squad member that does something goofy, odd, or is late for training or dinner, promptly gets slammed with a \$20:00 fine.

Instigator of the fine system concept was none other than quality sweeper Hayden Foxe.

Enforcer and collector of the fines is, Hayden Foxe.



Hayden Foxe: Has all bases covered.

The 'kitty' already has reached the lucrative sum of \$800:00.

And which player to date has been fined most often?

Yep, you've got it. Hayden Foxe.

MARCO TARDELLI, Italy's coach of the Olympic team, still relishes the precious and most glorious memories of when he was part of the national team that won the World Cup in 1982 in Spain.

It was Tardelli in fact that scored Italy's second goal that sent West Germany hurtling to a 3-1 defeat.

Now in Melbourne preparing his young Olympic squad to do battle tomorrow night, (Wednesday), against

Australia at the M.C.G., Tardelli stated over the week-end:

"Italy in past Olympics has always been serious, but never got the required results.

"At the Barcelona Games we started off really well then went bad," Tardelli recalled.

The former World Cup victor then suddenly switched to the present.

"I just hope that on Wednesday night at the M.C.G. Italy is able to show the form that we showed earlier this year in Bratislava where we won the European Championship.

"Australia, even without Okon and Kewell, is well organised and have the big advantage of playing at home.

"Australia's squad has great character.

"On Wednesday night in front of 95,000 spectators, of which many will be Italian Australians, we must show them that we are very serious," stated Tardelli.



Marco Tardelli: Italy's Olympic coach.

When questioned which nations he rates as favourites in the Olympics, he quickly came back with:

"Brazil, Nigeria and the Czech Republic," Tardelli ended.



BONNYRIGG
WHITE EAGLES
SOCCER CLUB

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

Will be conducting trials for it's Youth and Cadet League on the following dates and times:

Saturdays 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th October, 2000

Under 11s	12.00noon
Under 12s	2.00pm
Under 13s	4.00pm

Sundays 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th October, 2000

Under 14s	10.00am
Under 15s	12.00noon
Under 17s	2.00pm

Also a Coach for U/13 team is Required.

Location of Trials: All trials will be conducted at the Serbian Centre Lot 13 Simpson Road, Bonnyrigg.

For further information contact the club's secretary
Jack Cirjanic Phone: 9823 7714

REGIONAL SOCCER DEVELOPMENT COACH — CENTRAL COAST

Applications are sought from suitably qualified soccer development coaches for the above position based on the Central Coast.

Applicants should be experienced in coach, athlete and schools development, from the grass roots through to elite levels and hold a minimum qualification of Senior Licence (ACC level 2).

The position is contracted through to January 2002, after an initial 3 months probationary period.

*Applications should be forwarded by
September 22, 2000 to:*

Mr Chris White
General Manager
NSWASF
PO Box 6073
BAULKHAM HILLS BUSINESS CENTRE
NSW 2153

Enquiries, including requests for job description/selection criteria can be addressed to the above on 9629 2833.

**BLACKTOWN & DISTRICTS SOCCER FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**
P.O. BOX 253, DOONSIDE NSW 2767
Tel: 9624 3344 Fax: 9674 3057



BDSFA



Email: bdsfa@bdsfa.com

Director of Coaching: Mr Barry DAVIS Mob: 0407 072 735

Invites Players for the 2001 Representative teams to Trial

All Age men & U/18 male will be posted here when announced

ALL TRIALS:

Venue: BERT SAUNDERS Reserve
KIATA Crescent, (Off KILDARE RD), Next to Featherdale DOONSIDE

ALL AGE PREMIER

• Tues 10th October 7.00pm • Tues 17th October 7.00pm • Tues 24th October 7.00pm

YOUTH LEAGUE

UNDER 13s

Tues 3rd Oct
Thurs 5th Oct
Tues 10th Oct
Thurs 12th Oct

6.00pm
6.00pm
6.00pm
6.00pm

UNDER 14s

Wed 4th Oct
Fri 6th Oct
Wed 11th Oct
Fri 13th Oct

6.00pm
6.00pm
6.00pm
6.00pm

UNDER 15s

Tues 3rd Oct
Thurs 5th Oct
Tues 10th Oct

7.30pm
7.30pm
7.30pm

UNDER 16s

Thurs 7th Sept
Wed 4th Oct
Fri 6th Oct
Wed 11th Oct

7.30pm
7.30pm
7.30pm
7.30pm

UNDER 14 & 16 Girls, Ladies - To select train on Squad in each age group

• Wed 6th Sept 6.30pm

To finalise each squad:

• Wed 4th October - 6.30pm • Wed 11th October - 6.30pm • Wed 18th October - 6.30pm

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OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

REWARDS FOR BEST

South Australia's most coveted individual award, the Serg Melta Medal will be decided during a glittering evening at the Adelaide Festival Centre on Friday, October 6.

Who will win the prize as the Smoke Free Premier League Player of The Year for season 2000?

Will leading goalscorer Michael Brooks become the first player to win the award twice, or will one of his Blue Eagles team-mates, Joe Cutillo or Frank Sergi grab the award?

Could big Les Matiscsak of Cumberland Foxes defy the odds by winning successive Melta Medals, after sharing last season's top player award with John Fontanarosa (Croydon Kings) and Tony Scalzi (Metro Stars)?

Brad Armour (White City Woodville) also has the opportunity to win his second medal prize after snaring his first medal for that club in 1992.

The invitations are out for the top three vote getters from each of the 12 Premier League clubs.

Modbury Jets, the grand final runners-up have a trio of outstanding performers attending the gala occasion — Mark Yates, Duane Dobson and Jason Trimboli.

Yates and Dobson should be among the front runners, along with Steve DeGiovannello (Port Lion Pirates), Paul Simmons (Metro Stars) and Shaun

Plummer (Birkalla).

Another highlight of the prestigious black tie affair will be the announcement of the State League Bob Telfer award winner.

Both awards are voted on by match officials on a 3-2-1 basis during each game of the home and away season.

MELTA MEDAL FINALISTS

Blue Eagles: Michael Brooks, Joe Cutillo, Frank Sergi. **Adelaide City Zebras:** Michael Cartwright, Neil Childs, Lucas Pantelis. **Campbelltown Red Devils:** Paul Beltrame, Adam Perre, Jun Udagawa. **Croydon Kings:** Jamie Perin, Michael Pirone, Joel Porter. **Cumberland Foxes:** Les Matiscsak, Matt Villios, Robert Walczynski. **Elizabeth City Rams:** Mark Brazzale, Sam Farncombe, Aaron Westervelt. **Modbury Jets:** Duane Dobson, Jason Trimboli, Mark Yates. **North East Metro Stars:** Ric DeRosa, Vince Schimmizi, Paul Simmons. **Port Lion Pirates:** Steve DeGiovannello, Damian Harley, Fraser Keegan. **Raiders:** Justin Bralic, Lucio DaRocha, Billy Karapetis. **West Torrens Birkalla:** Dustie McGregor, Shaun Plummer, Kurt Wilkinson. **White City Woodville:** Brad Armour, Daniel Ferreira, Damian Stam.

BOB TELFER MEDAL FINALISTS

Cobras: Zeljko Bilandzic. **Hills Hawks:** Juan Rodriguez. **Enfield Falcons:** Mark Abraham. **Noarlunga Bulldogs:** Justin Marsh. **Northern Demons:** Rick Cerracchio. **Olympic FC:** Steff Pappas. **Para Hills Knights:** Marc Woods. **Panthers:** Anthony Best. **Port Pirie City:** John

Christopoulos. **Salisbury Apaches:** Trevor Elliott. **Seaford Surfers:** Scot Huybregts. **Western Strikers:** Roy Selinis,

OLYMPIC SPIRIT FOR SA TEAM

The South Australian State team has delved deep to help visiting Olympic Games teams fine tune for international action.

Under new interim coach Brenton Hiern and his assistant John Evans, the SA squad has volunteered and been accepted as a sparring partner for the Adelaide-based Olympic teams from Korea, Honduras, Spain and Nigeria.

There is no shortage of experience in the local team with former Adelaide City men, Mark Yates, Michael Brooks, Carlo Talladira, Michael Pirone and Sam Barbaro joining ex-Adelaide Sharks players, Corey Artone, Bill Misailidis and Aaron Westervelt, plus former Collingwood midfielder Rick Cerracchio.

For the record, the SA squad is — Artone, Brooks, Lino Sattin, Frank Sergi (Blue Eagles), Cerracchio (Northern Demons), Daniel Ferreira, Damian Stam, (White City), John Fontanarosa, Tony Scalzi, Paul Simmons, Talladira, Ben Moore (Metro Stars), Billy Karapetis (Raiders), Daniel Menechella, David Menechella, Michael Menechella (Campbelltown), Misailidis, Damian Harley (Port Lion), Rick Piotrowski, Pirone, Craig Woods, Sam Barbaro (Croydon Kings), Jason Trimboli, Yates, Robert Matosevic, Duane Dobson (Modbury), Westervelt (Elizabeth Rams), Evan Metanowski, Neil Childs (Adelaide Force).

PLUM DRAW

Adelaide reckons it has the pick of the Olympic Games football draw with Italy, Spain, Korea,

Chile, Nigeria, Honduras and Morocco set to shine on SA's purpose-built soccer facility, Hindmarsh Stadium.

And, the superbly refurbished Hindmarsh (even the concrete pavers have been polished) could host Brazil in a quarter-final, if it finishes second in its group.

BROTHERS TO MOVE?

Don't be surprised if those many fella's named Menechella (David, Daniel and Michael) switch shortly from Campbelltown City to Camden Reserve, where the under new management club, Birkalla have been casting envious eyes in the direction of the talented trio.

FORCE INTERESTED IN TEENS

Adelaide City Force coach Zoran Matic trialed Northern Spirit teenager James Monie during the 0-2 trial game loss to Perth Glory and was impressed with the 17-year-old striker.

Local youngster Mario Karlovic, 16, also was a success and has been asked to sign on the dotted line.

Matic will wait until after a practice game against Marconi on September 24 before deciding if he should offer contracts to the latest Italian imports, Walter Dondoni and Fabrizio Bucciarelli.

Allan Crisp can be heard on the SRPH (1197) Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7.30am-9am, along with former Australian international John Perin, Channel 10 presenter Robbie Popplestone and Australian and British Soccer Weekly editor Vince Battiatto.

WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

Wolves new home approved — The new turf is being rolled out at WIN Stadium and several Wolves players plus Chairman Joe Cachia were there to investigate.

Captain Matt Horsley, strikers Scott Chipperfield and Stuart Young agreed with the new surface. The \$1 million upgrade includes the installation of the Strathayr playing surface which is almost complete.

The surface is the same as the one at Stadium Australia, Parramatta Stadium and Hampden Park in Scotland, according to contractor and Strathayr director Frank Casimaly.

He said there were layers of sand and gravel below the turf, allowing for perfect drainage after heavy rain, there will be never any surface water and it is expected the turf will have settled well by the time the Wolves play their first game.

World Club Championship — The news received by General Manager Graeme Haney states that the Oceania qualification games have to be played in January 2000.

FIFA demands nomination of the participating team by the end of January and that the tournament be conducted between the 8th and 18th of January 2000, the venue has not yet been determined, hopefully in Australia.

If that is the case the Wolves could be forced to play several double-headers, similar to South

Melbourne last year which is a tough task for the players.

On the other hand if the side qualifies the reward is magnificent.

Wolves U16's Grand Final — The young girls have made it to the Grand Final to be played this week under floodlights at Berkeley Sports Ground.

The U21 Wolves Starlets were edged out in the Grand Final by Marconi in a penalty-shoot-out. The Wolves Junior presentation will be staged at the Fraternity club this week and all youngsters are to receive a memento of their season with the club.

Interesting Quote — At the National Press Club address in Canberra recently a quote was made by the Federal Minister of Sport Ms Jackie Kelly regarding the Sydney Olympic games coming up. She said: "Soccer or properly named Football attracts more spectators than any other event of the games."

Wolves respect local soccer — at the recent Illawarra grand Final, held at Crehan Park, Cringila in front of over 4500 spectators it was pleasing to know that several important guests from the NSL club attended to honour the occasion.

Wolves Chairman Joe Cachia plus directors Bruce Cunningham and Wally Boscoscura, General Manager Graeme Haney, Wolves coach Stuart Beedie plus striker Stuart Young were welcomed by the Soccer Association.

Also special guests attended in local State MP David Campbell

and Shellharbour City mayor Cec Glenholmes as well as major soccer sponsor and Illawarra Credit Union was represented with their Marketing Manager Colleen Butfield.

Life members of the Association present were Bert Bampton, George Naylor, Tony McDonald, Barry Scott, John Walker, Harry Brown and Mrs Pat Brown and Mrs Mavies Naylor.

Port Kembla Grand Final Champion 2000 — In an all-out attack in the second half Port beat Wollongong Olympic 2-0.

The supporters provided a colourful picture with Olympic also represented in the lower grade winning the reserve grade 2-0 against Western Suburbs while West won the Youth grade 2-1 in extra-time against Lysaghts.

Soccer Illawarra was pleased with the day's events, the first Grand Final not played at Brandon Park in six years.

Adrian Alston successful coach — Former Soccerroo Adrian Alston, now coach of Port Kembla for the last eight seasons has signed on for another year.

The club played under his guidance in the last six grand finals, winning four of them, they are one of the most successful teams in Illawarra in recent years and the foundations are in place to continue many more successful seasons.

Futsal for Athens 2004

By Graham Cooke

Futsal is 99 per cent certain of being included in the Athens Olympics, one of the game's leading figures says.

FIFA Technical Director Vic Hermans, recognised as one of the world's foremost educators in the sport, says it simply remains for FIFA and the International Olympic Committee to cut a deal.

"In 1996 there was agreement for women's soccer to enter the Olympics, so it is a question of being patient," he said. "You don't change the world in a day."

"Futsal is another football sport and the IOC needs time to consider it."

Hermans, who captained Holland to the final of the 1989 Futsal World Cup, and was named the international player of that year, is in Canberra working with national coach Jim Roberts.

Together they are preparing the Australian team for the World Cup in Guatemala from November 18 to December 3.

"One of the problems Australia has, in common with many other countries around the world, is that there is no professional futsal league here," he said.



Vic Hermans (far right) with Australian members Daniel Macor (left) and David Palywoda.

"I have players in this camp who have difficulty in handling the full-time training regime and consequently sustain injuries."

"Training three evenings a week and then playing at the weekend is simply not good enough if you want to compete at the highest level."

Australia opens its campaign in the 16-nation World Cup with a game against Costa Rica on November 19 followed by Croatia on the 21st and Russia on the 23rd

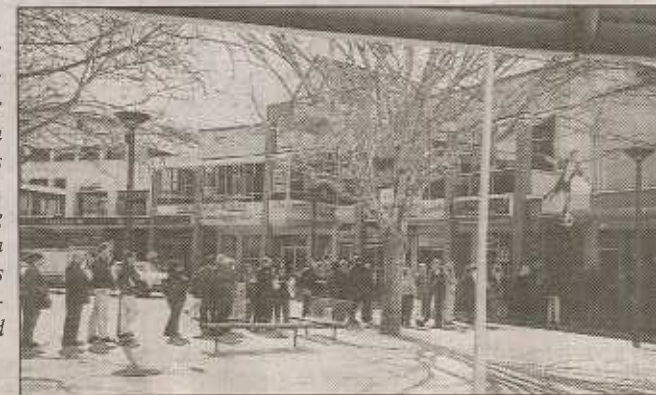
— a group from which it could well advance to the next round.

The squad from which the final 14 will be chosen is: Adam Confoy, Andrew Nolan, Brett Hewit, Darren Smith, Gavin O'Brien, Jamie Amendolia, Jason Wells, Jorge Suarez, Simon Keith (all NSW), Angelo Konstantinou, Daniel Macor, David Palywoda, Elia Salloum, Matt White, Scott Manson, Simon Aitchison, Gabi Exposito, Elliot Zwangobani (all ACT).

Football Fever hits Canberra

Football fever hits Canberra. Despite concerns over the state of the Bruce Stadium pitch, the Olympic booking office in Garema Place has been besieged with customers, with queues sometimes up to 50 metres long.

It now seems tomorrow's opening double header will be close to a 22,500 sell-out, beating the previous record of 17,000 for a soccer attendance in Canberra which has stood for almost 20 years.



TYNAN-EYRE CUP

Souths show new vigour

By Bert van Bedaf

South Melbourne made a confident start to its pre-season campaign with a 3-1 victory over Carlton in the Tynan-Eyre Cup last Sunday.

The former national champion revealed a vigorous side that defeated a sluggish Carlton on a soggy pitch at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex, the home ground of Victorian Premier League club Bentleigh Greens.

In the second match, the Melbourne Knights came twice from behind to beat Eastern Pride, formerly Gippsland Falcons, 3-2 in a dogged fight on a deteriorating pitch, suffering badly from a week of heavy rain.

The Cup double header was attended by a record crowd of around 2000 showing their appetite for national league club soccer before the start of the Olympic matches, opening with the Olyroos against Italy on Wednesday at the MCG.

The Tynan-Eyre Cup, held in honour of Victoria police killed in the line duty, has been the traditional pre-season test for the state's national league teams, trialling newcomers or parading new signings.

South Melbourne revealed returned goal keeper Michael Petkovic (ex-Strasbourg and chosen ahead of last season's Chris Jones) and Mehmet Durakovic (ex-Pride) in defence. The sweeper made his return to his old club and gave a solid display without rising to exceptional heights.

Zeljko Susa (ex-Melbourne Knights) showed finesse in midfield, while guest striker Vas Kalagerakos (ex-Perth Glory) came on for the last 30 minutes, replacing a starring John Anastasiadis, who scored twice.

Carlton fielded Robbie Middleby (ex-Football Kings), striker Craig Lewis (a former South Melbourne forward and top scorer with Frankston Pines in Victoria's State League), while Joe Tricarico made a return after serious injury last season.

Eastern Pride fielded defender Dong Ki Kim (ex-Adelaide City Force), Mustafa Mustafa (ex-Port Melbourne and South Melbourne youth team) and guest player Ante Deak (ex-Sydney United and



Michael Petkovic: Souths new signing had a solid match.

Melbourne Knights).

The Melbourne Knights included Stelios Drakos (a guest player on trial from Bentleigh), Xhezair Sulemani (guesting from South Dandenong) as well as new signings striker Joel Porter (ex-Adelaide), Andy Vargas (ex-Pride and joining brother Rody at Somers St), defender Sasa Ognjenovski and Josip Kozic (both of Preston).

Several players were missing from the competing sides. At South Melbourne, Paul Trimboli is recovering from a knee operation, while Con Boutsianis, also recovering from knee surgery, is expected to sign this week for his old club.

Carlton missed Sean Douglas (flu), Mark Atkinson (ankle injury), Steve Horvat (also flu), Simon Colosimo and Archie Thompson (both Olyroos duties).

Eastern Pride lacked Dean Fak, Clayton Bell and Neville Roach (all three injured). The club is expecting Alex Kuzmanovic to be ready for the next round on Saturday.

The Melbourne Knights also suffered from absenteeism, missing Ransford Banini (recovering from injury), Paul Magdic (injured), Alex Kiratzoglou (injured), Adrian Cervinski (recovering from operation) and Dragi Nastevski (Olyroos duties).

South Melbourne showed they are back as a top-side and in early form under new coach Mike Petersen in a 3-4-3 formation.

Anastasiadis shot them in front

after 22 minutes, but youngster Ange Motsiopoulos, on for Tricarico after 25 minutes, got the Blues level from a Middleby cross.

But Anastasiadis showed his hunger by putting his side ahead again with a low volley after 57 minutes from a fluent David Clarkson and Goran Lozanovski combination.



Vlado Vanis: Happy with the win despite plenty of silly mistakes.

Andy Vlahos scored South's third from another Lozanovski cross in the 87th minute.

The Knights showed their typical never-say-die attitude against the Gippslanders, who also showed plenty of fight.

Pride went ahead in the 43rd minute, when Juan Nilo took advantage of a misunderstanding between Ognjenovski and Knights 'keeper Lou

Acevski, now in his second season at Sunshine and tested in place of last season's regular 'keeper Martin John.

But the Knights levelled just on half-time, when Porter headed home at the near post from an Andy Vargas corner.

The Pride hit the front again on the hour, when Robbie Puca shot home a Deak corner and the match seemed settled in their favour.

However, the Knights earned a penalty after referee Hakan Anaz ruled Jonathan Burhagiar had handled the ball inside the area. Anthony Pelikan struck from the spot.

Having levelled, the Knights surged forward again and hit the front for

the first time with few minutes to spare. Joe Rajher crossed and Sulemani struck the winner three minutes from full time.

The Pride failed to equalise from reasonable chances in the dying minutes. Nilo shot over the crossbar from close range and Michael Katz hit the woodwork.

There were mixed reactions among the four coaches. Petersen was well pleased with the win, while Carlton coach Stuart Munro had to dig deep to fathom positives out of a disappointing performance after six weeks of pre-season training so far.

Knights coach Vlado Vanis said he was "happy with the result", but believed his young and experienced team had made "too many silly mistakes" and look "heavy in the legs".

Pride coach Jeff Hopkins described the loss as a "disappointment", having taken the lead twice and let it slip twice to go behind.

He conceded the departure of Durakovic to South had been "a major loss".

He said he was still looking for an experienced defender to fill the void.

Kim occupied the sweeper position, but Hopkins wants to play him as a wide midfielder and the sweeping role for the former Adelaide player was only a short-term solution, he said.

The second round of the Tynan-Eyre Cup will be held at the Green Gully Reserve on Saturday. South Melbourne takes on Eastern Pride at 2pm. Carlton plays Melbourne Knights at 4pm.

BLACKTOWN & DISTRICTS SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 253 DOONSIDE NSW 2767

Telephone: 9624 3344

Fax: 9674 3057

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COACHES WANTED

The above club is seeking experienced coaches. Must have minimum Level 2 for our U/13s, 14s & 15s Youth League sides.

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We will commence season 2001 in the VSF Second Division and we are seeking a coach who will build a team to quickly return us, utilising our vast junior resource, to the First Division. Applications in the first instance should be addressed to:

The Hon. Secretary,
Doncaster Rovers Soccer Club Inc.
P.O. Box 1967, Doncaster East, Vic. 3109

WOMEN'S SOCCER COORDINATOR

Applications are invited for the part-time position of women's Soccer Coordinator with the

NSW Amateur Soccer Federation

Applications should be able to demonstrate experience in schools development programs and/or conducting skill clinics, have experience in working for/with soccer clubs or Associations, must hold an NCAS level 2 accreditation, excellent organisation, time management, planning and communication skills and a working knowledge of both the schools and soccer systems in NSW.

Applications should be sent by 2nd September 2000, to

Mr Chris White
General Manager
NSWASF
PO Box 6073
BAULKHAM HILLS
BUSINESS CENTRE NSW 2153

Enquiries, including requests for job description/selection criteria can be addressed to the above on 9629 2833

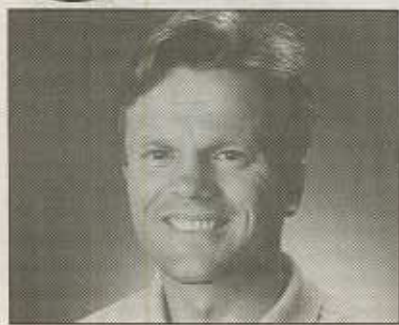
SPECIAL CHARITY MATCH

SYDNEY OLYMPIC vs CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE

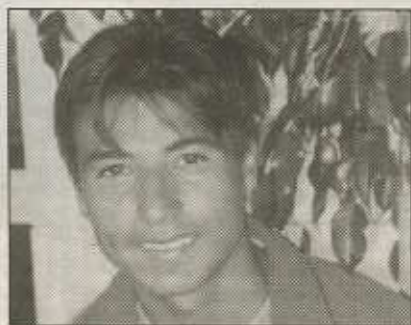
This SUNDAY, September 17th, 2000

at LAMBERT PARK, Marion Street, LEICHHARDT NSW.

Match Kicks Off at 4.00pm



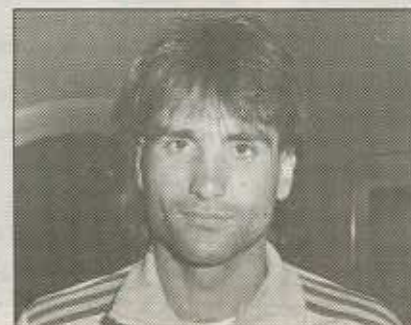
Branko Culina



Nick Carle



Jimmy Nikas



Jimmy Patikas

Olympic Preparations come to a close

OLYROOS READY FOR THE COUNT



It has been a chaotic preparation for Australia's Olympic side, hampered by withdrawals, injuries and late arrivals before the vital opening match against Italy at a sold-out MCG in Melbourne on Wednesday. Victorian editor Bert van Bedaf observed the proceedings.

There's no escaping the facts. The real Olyroos have yet to stand up and be counted.

Coach Raul Blanco has been unable to test his full-strength line-up against any quality opposition and he acknowledged the deficiency. "I wanted (to try) my possible starting line-up, but this is not going to happen."

The sides fielded in two warm-ups against Kuwait and South Africa, last Tuesday and Thursday night respectively, were invariably and pointedly

described as "makeshift", despite two wins, 3-0 over a jet-lagged Kuwait and 1-0 against a sharper South Africa.

The withdrawals of injured Harry Kewell (Leeds United) and Paul Okon (Middlesbrough) are

well documented and need no further elaboration. But Blanco was also faced with late arrivals of his other main draw-cards Josip Skoko (a late call-up from Racing Genk, Belgium, in place of Okon) and main target man Mark Viduka (Leeds).

They arrived late Friday and took no part in the warm-up bouts, having their first hit-outs with the squad on Saturday.

Also absent from the matches were captain Brett Emerton (Feyenoord), defenders Con Blasis (Derby County) and Hayden Foxe (working permit rejected for West Ham United) through injury.

The drama surrounding injured 'keeper Joe Didulica (Ajax) was also unfolding. Didulica did not take part in the warm-ups and later was forced to withdraw because of shin fractures in his right leg, leaving Danny Milosevic as first-choice 'keeper.

Jason Culina (also at Ajax) was absent during the match against Kuwait, but lined up against South Africa in place of Vince Grella (Ternana, Italy) who covered the midfield against Kuwait but suffered from the 'flu and was sidelined against the South Africans.

Milosevic (Leeds) is certain to be Australia's main goalkeeper, having done well in both matches. Others who stood out were Lucas Neill (Millwall), Simon Colosimo (Carlton), Marco Bresciano (Empoli) and Nick Rizzo (Ternana).

Stephen Laybutt (Feyenoord) did not impress in defence. Stan Lazaridis (Birmingham) seemed

wasted as a wingback and should become more involved. Kasey Wehrman (Perth) did not look match-fit.

Strikers Michael Curcija (Partizan Belgrade) and Clayton Zane (Molde, Norway) weren't quite as penetrating as Blanco would have wanted, but they did

end up scoring against a tiring Kuwait, adding to Bresciano's opener in an encouraging second half. Culina scored the only and winning goal against South Africa.

Coming off the bench Archie Thompson (Carlton) proved his usual sparkling self and Dragi Nasteovski (Melbourne Knights)

was solid at the back, giving Blanco confidence in his back-up players.

But overall, Australia lacked purpose and organisation, playing in a 3-5-2 formation that fell back to 4-4-2 at times and reverting to its original structure as the matches progressed.

Australia was unable to dominate in both matches and to dictate terms, which prevented the players from executing any fluency and producing an effective passing game.

There was too much loss of possession, resulting in the energy-sapping need for retrieval. Also, because the playing tempo was low, it allowed the opposition to exert too much ball pressure.

This, in turn, put the Australians under too much pressure, preventing them from delivering clean passes and creating clear-cut chances, which will cause them problems against an experienced Italy.

Against Kuwait, Milosevic saved twice in the first 25 minutes to prevent Australia from going behind, while the home team could not mount a real chance on target before the break.

After the interval, Australia struck quickly against a Kuwait side that had travelled around the world in seven days, visiting eight airports and having little time to prepare.

Rizzo produced a fine cross, offering Bresciano a tap-in in the 48th minute. A Bresciano run in the 62nd minute left Zane enough time to shoot home Australia's second

goal. The Kuwait 'keeper, Sehab Kankone could not hold onto a Zane shot, giving Curcija the opportunity to slot the rebound into the net for Australia's third goal of the night.

South Africa proved a much tougher opponent. Culina managed an eighth-minute strike, after good work by Curcija and Bresciano, but otherwise the match was pretty even, with South Africa missing several clear chances.

Benedict McCarthy, of Spain's Celta Vigo fame, made life difficult for the Australian defence and substitute forward Daniel Matsay hit the crossbar from close range in the dying moments. It could well have been a deserved draw for the hard-working South Africans.

Blanco's options and time seem to be running out to further fine-tune Australia's line-up for the vital match against Italy. Skoko and Viduka will virtually be thrown into the side to face Italy's fury almost straight off the plane.

Blasis continues to struggle with a thigh strain. "Blasis is a problem. It's a concern that he's not improving more quickly. He hasn't been in full training for a while now," Blanco said.

Foxe has been improving, while Emerton also appears to be on the mend, which leaves Blanco with Milosevic (goal), Neill, Colosimo, Foxe (back three), Lazaridis, Bresciano, Skoko, Emerton, Rizzo (mid-five), Curcija and Viduka (strikers) as his best possible starting 11.



Brett Emerton: Australian skipper.

TEARS AS DIDULICA BOWS OUT



Danny Milosevic: Now Blanco's number one.

By Bert van Bedaf

There's no more bitter bile to taste for an athlete than being ruled out to compete.

It is harder to take that than losing. At least, even if you've lost, you've had the opportunity to fight the battle. But coming so close — less than a week after four years of longing towards the moment — and then suffering injury is more than heart breaking. It is soul destroying. It brought Joe Didulica to tears last Thursday.

Goalkeepers Didulica and Danny Milosevic were vying for a place under the Olympic crossbar. Now it will be Milosevic keeping guard at the MCG, while Didulica has been forced to watch from the sidelines.

Didulica travelled from Ajax Amsterdam, Holland, to fulfill his dream, which turned

into a private nightmare.

He felt some discomfort in his right leg on the day before the warm-up match against Kuwait and stopped training. Olyroos coach Raul Blanco sent his choice 'keeper to the doctor. "We went for some tests straight away," Didulica said.

They revealed stress fractures of the tibia in his right leg, which ruled him out of the tournament.

"Officially I'm out, because of stress fractures in my right leg. When I rang my parents (who live in home town Geelong), they were just as shattered as I was," Didulica said, fighting back the tears.

"I came here fit and I did well at training. This is one of those things that happened. It happened a week before the biggest day of my life.

To play at the Olympics 2000 has been my goal since I first went into (Olyroos) camp

in 1996," he said.

The former Melbourne Knights 'keeper believed he was a good chance to be in goal, although he acknowledged Milosevic was also on Blanco's scorecard.

"I think I had a good chance. But Blanco was confident in both of us. We both had not let him down in the matches we've played. Either of us was able to do the job for him," Didulica said.

Standby 'keeper Michael Turnbull of Marconi has now moved into the squad as back-up to Milosevic.

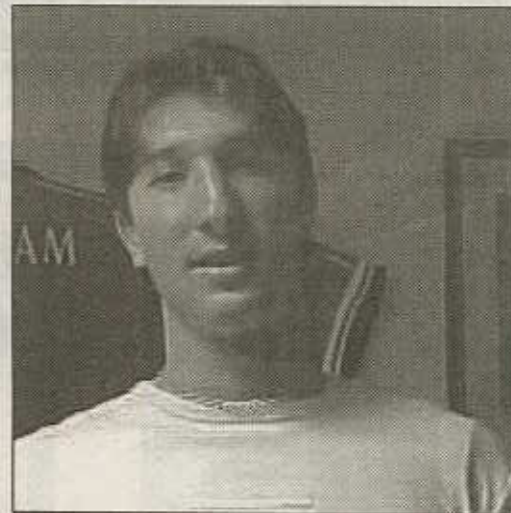
The 22-year-old Didulica will now concentrate on making his mark at Ajax, where he's working hard to break into the senior side as its regular 'keeper.

He's trained and played with the senior side during the Dutch pre-season and did not concede a goal, "which is pleasing," Didulica said.

"I'll just have to try for the next Olympics (Athens 2004), maybe as an over-age player," he said with a wry smile.

He said it just when Ajax team mate Jason Culina shot

the Olyroos to a 1-0 lead against South Africa eight minutes into the game — and he cheered, "Bravo, Jason", eyes focused on the game.



Joe Didulica: Huge disappointment.

THIRD TIME LUCKY

Lazaridis finally gets his Olympic chance

By John Economos



Stan Lazaridis: Australia's mobile left wing back, taking a throw-in.

Stan Lazaridis, Australia's mobile Olympic Games left wingback, was most refreshing to hear his real genuine attitude surface when he met the media in Melbourne last week.

Having just missed out on the Barcelona Olympics, and then the Atlanta Olympics because he was too old, he's finally made it to represent his beloved Australia at a 'Five Ring Event'.

The 28-year-old Birmingham City flanker, stated: "I've been given a new lease of life and have been resurrected again."

"I've been now given the opportunity, (to play for Australia in the Olympics), that I thought had passed me by."

"I want to do well for Raul Blanco, for myself and above all for my country."

"This is a very big honour," underlined the red-hot, left-footer.

What an attitude, how patriotic and how healthy does that sound?

All in contrast to a stack of some of our other players that have rejected Australia, preferring to

seek fame and fortune in Europe by turning their backs on our Olympic team.

Whilst on the subject of 'Stan The Man'.

Since coming back from England, (West Ham), to play for Australia in the last World Cup qualifiers, Lazaridis' form had vastly improved.

Most vividly noticeable, was the quality of his crosses.

No longer were they just wild 'hits' into the box with little control or direction.

Every one of his crosses were perfectly timed, had power, and with low trajectories.

But above all, today, all his crosses have radar-accuracy.

Lazaridis can now actually 'hit' people near the box and from his left flank with almost geometric precision.

Ask ace aerial specialists such as John Aloisi, Paul Agostino and Mark Viduka what value they put on the quality of Lazaridis' 'flank supply'.

You'll see it clearly tomorrow at the M.C.G. as Stan 'hits' Curcija, Viduka and Zane with his special rockets from the left.

Sheer quality. Sheer joy.



Stan Lazaridis: In action last week against Kuwait in Melbourne.

Brazilians Romp Past Stallions

Marconi 0

Brazil 4

The Brazilian Olympic football team have comfortably defeated the Marconi Stallions 4-0 in their final hit out before the start of Olympic competition.

A packed house of 12,000 crammed Bossely park to watch the Olympic favourites, who didn't let anyone down with their fine display of 'samba' football.

While it was only a training run for the Brazilians, the game was a last chance to clear any cobwebs before their opening encounter against Slovakia on Thursday. A point coach Wanderley Luxemburgo stressed on after the game.

"It is important to play full games to have a rhythm of the game. It was very useful to watch," he said.

"I am happy with what I saw today, but there is much to improve."

It was also a last chance

for players to impress Luxemburgo with an onfield performance. An opportunity substitute Lucas Severino took with open arms by scoring a double.

Marconi coach Eddie Krncevic could only admire the quality on display.

"They just did not have a weakness in their side, from the beginning to the end they were a class above us, if not two," he said.

"They're the favourites alongside Italy. Their movement off the ball, technique and all round movement makes them what they are."

The Brazilians were dominant in every facet of the game, and could well have scored more bar some great keeping from David Aceski.

Ronaldinho got Brazil off the mark in the 24th minute after pouncing on a low cross with a well placed volley.

This lead was doubled only 14 minutes later with what was the move of the match. Geovanni played to Ronaldinho who then skipped around a defender before threading it back to Geovanni in space. The finish was faultless, leaving Aceski very little chance.

Geovanni then returned the favour by setting Ronaldinho free, but suprisingly the young striker's shot was wild.

The second half saw the introduction of Lucas Severino up front, and star defender Arthirson.

Severino didn't take long to make his mark after confusion between keeper Aceski and Chad Gibson gifted him with the easiest of tap-ins.

Severino then claimed his



Wanderley Luxemburgo: Brazil's national coach.

second, beating the off-side trap with a well timed run and calmly slotting home past a helpless Aceski.

Overall the performance was encouraging for the

Brazilians, who look primed for an assault on the only major trophy they haven't claimed, an Olympic gold medal.



Ronaldinho: Scored Brazil's first and set up the second for a team mate Geovanni as the Brazilian's defeated Marconi 4-0.



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Under 13	Saturday, 7/10/00 at 9.00am Monday, 9/10/00 at 6.00pm Thursday, 12/10/00 at 6.00pm ☆☆☆☆
Under 14	Saturday, 7/10/00 at 10.30am Monday, 9/10/00 at 6.00pm Thursday, 12/10/00 at 6.00pm ☆☆☆☆
Under 15	Saturday, 7/10/00 at 12.00pm Monday, 9/10/00 at 7.30pm Thursday, 12/10/00 at 7.30pm ☆☆☆☆
Under 17	Saturday, 7/10/00 at 1.30pm Monday, 9/10/00 at 7.30pm Thursday, 12/10/00 at 7.30pm ☆☆☆☆

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★★★★ ABSW SPECIAL 1000TH EDITION ★★★★★

THE MEN IN CHARGE

ABSW's Past Editors : Where are they now?



David Jack: Pioneering Editor.

ROLL OF HONOUR

1. David Jack (Passed away 1986)
2. Andrew Dettre (Semi-retired, still in publishing)
3. Brad Earl (Cumberland Newspapers, Head of Sport)
4. Frank Colletta (Sky channel)
5. Andy Paschalidis (TV presenter, Foxtel)
6. Keith Gilmour (Passed away 1998)
7. Tom Anderson (Retired)
8. Lou Goutier (Soccer researcher, SBS TV)
9. Michael Cockerill (Soccer writer, SMH)
10. Bruce Campbell (Publishing magazine Celtic Weekly)
11. Steve Copping (Media co-ordinator, Aust. Ford Racing Team)
12. Anthony Raineri (Sports sub-editor, News Interactive)
13. Bob Brooks (Retired)
14. Micky Brock (Northern Spirit SC)
15. Aidan Ormond (Up until recently, editor of Inside Soccer)
16. Daniel Giorelando (Staff Writer, ABSW)
17. Vince Battiato (Current editor)

By Vince Battiato

Not many publications can boast a history spanning 20 years. Australian & British Soccer Weekly not only boasts such a history including this its current 1000th edition, but it boasts a succession of past Editors who have progressed the publication through lean times as well as purple patches.

It all began back in 1980 when pioneering editor and son of former England captain David Jack Senior, David Jack took the helm of a publication kicked off by Theo Skalkos and the Foreign Language Publications enterprise.

David Jack was also an exclusive soccer writer for Sydney tabloid The Sun.

As the years went on, the helm was to change on a number of occasions.

The first change was when Andrew Dettre took over from Jack, but it wasn't long before Jack was back in the helm for a second time.

ABSW was to go through some fantastic times and eventually established itself as the premier soccer publication in the country taking over from Dettre's Soccer World — (Green Paper).

ABSW still enjoys that luxury today despite seeing a turbulent turn-over of editors in the late 80s and early 90s.

In recent times it has re-established some stability at the helm from the time that Anthony Raineri took over from Steve Copping in the early 90's. Raineri was astute as a captain and re-introduced the discipline instilled by Michael Cockerill in his brief tenure a few years earlier. Cockerill has since become Australia's leading soccer writer, currently with the Sydney Morning Herald.

Not only does ABSW have the distinction of reaching the 1000 edition milestone but it has also seen 12 other publications in direct competition with it, come and go.

As the current editor, I would like to take this opportunity in such a groundbreaking edition to thank every past editor for all their time and effort in preparing each and every issue of ABSW.

It is not an easy job and I take this opportunity to thank all those before me for their sterling job. I work in the knowledge that each week I try to live up to the standard set by past editors and with some luck even lift it a notch or two from years gone by.



Andy Paschalidis: Now with Foxtel.



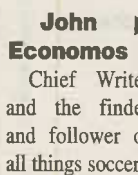
Anthony Raineri: Astute editor.

THE CURRENT CREW

It takes a big team to put together a publication like ABSW and it is worth mentioning every person involved in a week's tireless efforts.



Vince Battiato
Wearing the captain's armband.



John Economos
Chief Writer and the finder and follower of all things soccer.

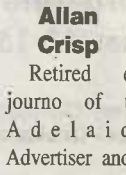


Mary Quartly
Layout. The driving force behind each individual page of ABSW.

Alamita Vea
Able partner to Mary.



Bert van Bedaf
Melbourne editor and the source of all things Victorian.



Allan Crisp
Retired ex-journo of the Adelaide Advertiser and a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Glenn Davis
AAP reporter from Brisbane. Well attuned to the Queensland Game.

Daniel Giorelando

Staff Writer as well as doer of all tasks most others either won't or can't do.



Otto Bader
Valuable source of knowledge for the Wollongong Wolves.

Richard Kreider
Eight year ABSW veteran based in WA with uncanny knack for the big story.

Graham Cooke
ABSW's Canberra correspondent provides an abundance of info from the national capital.

Joe Russo
ABSW's resident Italian expert.

Julian Murphy

The English Premier League king and not too bad with the NSWSL either.



Roy Hay
A wealth of knowledge and pictures from the Victorian youth leagues.

Greg Danvers
Newcastle seems a lot closer to home with Greg's in depth reporting of the area.

Mark Stavroulakis
ABSW's resident junior writer.

Janene Mar
Soccer wouldn't be soccer without a women's wrap up.

Arvind Hickman

Our eye on our Aussies on the world stage.

A wish of thanks to all who have ever contributed to ABSW in any way, shape or form. It could never be done without all of you.



Front left to right: Elly Vea (typesetter-midfield), Daniel Giorelando (staff writer-sweeper), Mary Quartly (layout-midfield), John Economos (chief writer-striker), Vince Battiato (editor-captain).

SURVIVOR

When you think of Soccer Weekly you think synonymously of John Economos. Over the past 20 years John Economos has battled for the game he loves in the profession he loves and we take this opportunity to look at the man behind the pen a little closer.

By Vince Battistio

Not many men in our great game can claim to have been part of so much over the past 20 years as can John Economos.

Thing is, he really doesn't like to boast about it. But looking at the archives alone you can see that Economos has been there and done that, with some of the biggest names in the World game, 64 in fact!

Since John joined ABSW eight months after its inception in 1980 leaving his job as an accountant to do so, he has done 64 one-on-one interviews with some big names.

But out of so many names surely some must stand out to John as bigger or better than the rest. Now for those of you who know John, that question was a catalyst for John to go on for some 20 minutes unable to rank them. "It's impossible," he retorted, "there's too many."

John eventually went with the following list as the real stand-outs amongst a worthy list: Pele, Franz Beckenbauer, Francis Lee, Bobby Robson, George Best, Diego Maradona, Martyn Tyler, Dr. Joe Venglos, Zoran Matic, Uncle Joe Vlasits and Eddie Thomson.

But the big names can roll off the tongue for hours. John has spent quiet moments not only with those names above but with others like Elton John, Dennis Law, 'Toto' Schillaci, Dunga, Peter Shilton, Giovanni Trapattoni, Claudio Gentile, Former German

When undivided Loyalty begins at day one



John alongside Welsh and Liverpool legend Ian Rush.



Former England captain and deadly striker Gary Linekar.

national coach Dietmar Kramer, Ferenc Puskas, Leo Baumgartner, Carl Jaros, Doug Utjesenovic, Col Curren, Peter Wilson, Peter Sharpe, Jimmy Rooney, Ricardo Campana, Serg Melta, John Perin...the list goes on and on.

John has even been a special guest of FIFA delegates and Joao Havelange and co in 1993 when they sailed down the Parramatta River to the Homebush bay site to see if Sydney should be allowed to stage the 2000 Olympics. We all know where that ended up.

But in 20 years John has seen the game change dramatically in Australia:

"There has been a severe deterioration in the quality of players," he said.

"Their professional attitudes, their technique, their character..." he added.

"Players of yesteryear like Watkiss, Lord, Warren, Baartz, Blanco, Marnock, Watson, Fraser and Blair...these guys had characters of steel.

"They were strong competitors and had an undying professional attitude.

"Their dedication was unquestionable," he ended.

John doesn't believe many players of today actually have the unquestionable loyalty evident in days gone by.

"There aren't many, I don't think," he said, "Viduka, Bosnich, Lazaridis, Durakovic, Tobin, there aren't many more after that," he continued.

"These guys love playing for their country at all costs. You can probably

throw in Chad Gibson, Mike Smith, Paul Trimboli, Velimir Kupresak, Leo Baumgartner and Ricardo Campana as well," he added to the list as he recalled through the filofax in his mind.

But Economos believes the World game has also suffered.

"The Pace of the game has become of paramount importance in the last decade," he said.

"The skill factor has suffered because players no longer enjoy the luxury of space that was available to them in the 50's and 60's, for example the Real Madrid team of the 60's."

As you can imagine John has made many friends over his years in the game, some of them the biggest names in this country and interestingly enough, although they all have a John Economos story to tell, when it comes to the crux of the man, they all have the same sentiments.

"His heart is in the right place," said ex-Australian captain Johnny Warren, "He's a unique guy. I've known him for 45 years and he hasn't changed a bit.

"Anyone who knows him knows that. He's in there battling for the game and sometimes he can annoy the s*!# out of you," ended Warren.

Current Adelaide City coach Zoran Matic agrees:

"He loves the game," said Matic, "and he likes simple honest people and not complicated people - that's why he likes me," joked Matic.

"You see most people fall off the double bunk when they are young but

John did when he was old," laughed Matic.

"In our game," philosophised Matic, "we spend most of the time fighting each other instead of the opposition.

"John's heart is in the right place. I wish we had more Johnnie's," ended Matic.

Economos has seen all the changes at ABSW - stylistic, the game itself and a series of editors but he considers the biggest change the age of information.

"It's a long time ago since we were relying on telexes to get news from around the globe. Now the information age means we have instant access to knowledge, and that's great for the readers," he said.

So John Economos moves ahead past ABSW's millenium issue together with the rest of us in a game that will live much longer than all of us. John's last 20 years have been somewhat of a crusade for the game in this country, unfortunately of which not all has gone to plan.

But we all continue to move ahead and John continues to pen what is constantly on his mind - good or bad. Like him or love him you have to give him credit for speaking his mind.

I think past ABSW editor Anthony Raineri summed up best when he said;

"Any history of Australian soccer would have to include a chapter on John Economos."

He has certainly written more than his fair share and will probably continue to do so for a long time yet.



Former Brazilian World Cup winning captain Dunga.



The Best with the Best: England's George Best with ABSW's best John Economos.



One from the archives: Two young and dashing coaches Raul Blanco and Les Schienflug.



Argentina's greatest, Diego Maradona



John interviews the top scorer from the 1990 World Cup Italian Toto Schillaci.

Australia

(OLYMPIC TEAM)

Head Coach: Raul Blanco

Assistant Coaches: Adrian Santrac, Les Scheinflug



Con Blatsis

DEBUT

Born: 6-7-77,
Melbourne
Home state:
Vic

Team: Derby County, England
Ht: 192cm **Wt:** 87kg
Snapshot: South Melbourne defender in World Club Championships who was chosen to represent Socceroos.



Marco Bresciano

DEBUT

Born: 11-2-80,
Melbourne
Home state:
Vic

Team: Empoli, Italy
Ht: 176cm **Wt:** 76kg
Snapshot: Livewire midfielder who combines silky touches with precision passes. Plays in Italian Serie B.



Simon Colosimo

DEBUT

Born: 8-1-79,
Melbourne
Home state:
Vic

Team: Carlton
Ht: 183cm **Wt:** 78kg
Snapshot: Back in form after recovering from knee reconstruction caused by the boot of Man United's Andy Cole.



Jason Culina

DEBUT

Born: 5-8-80,
Sydney
Home state:
NSW

Team: Ajax Amsterdam, Netherlands
Ht: 175cm **Wt:** 70kg
Snapshot: Classy and creative midfielder with 15 caps to his credit.



Michael Curcija

DEBUT

Born: 27-6-77,
Melbourne
Home state:
Vic

Team: Partizan, Yugoslavia
Ht: 182cm **Wt:** 78kg
Snapshot: Free-scoring striker. Has scored nine goals for Australian Olympic team.



Michael Turnbull

DEBUT

Born: 24-3-81
Home state:
NSW

Team: Marconi
Ht: 189cm **Wt:** 78kg
Snapshot: Lively to be reserve goalkeeper against Italy tomorrow night at the MCG September 13.



Brett Emerton

DEBUT

Born: 22-2-79,
Sydney
Home state:
NSW

Team: Sydney Olympic
Ht: 185cm **Wt:** 85kg
Snapshot: Young skipper has recently sealed a \$1m move to Dutch club Feyenoord.



Hayden Foxe

ATLANTA

Born: 23-6-77,
Sydney
Home state:
NSW

Team: Sanfrecce Hiroshima
Ht: 193cm **Wt:** 84kg
Snapshot: Atlanta Olympian and classy defender.



Vince Grella

DEBUT

Born: 5-10-79,
Dandenong
Home state:
Vic

Team: Ternana, Italy
Ht: 182cm
Wt: 78kg
Snapshot: Midfielder in Italy's Serie B. Biting in the tackle and probing with his passes.



Stephen Laybutt

DEBUT

Born: 3-9-77,
Lithgow, NSW
Home state:
NSW

Team: Feyenoord, Netherland
Ht: 189cm **Wt:** 90kg
Snapshot: Defender with big future. Built like a rugby league backrower but possesses surprising subtlety.



Stan Lazaridis

DEBUT

Born: 16-8-72,
Perth
Home state:
WA

Team: Birmingham City, England
Ht: 175cm **Wt:** 76kg
Snapshot: Wing-back who can create chaos for defences. Will have a huge impact.



Danny Milosevic

DEBUT

Born: 26-6-78,
Melbourne
Home state:
WA

Team: Leeds United, England
Ht: 188cm **Wt:** 90kg
Snapshot: Former Perth Glory goalkeeper who is one of five Australians on Leeds' books.



Lucas Neill

DEBUT

Born: 9-3-78,
Sydney
Home state:
NSW

Team: Millwall, England
Ht: 185cm **Wt:** 80kg
Snapshot: Utility player who has made a name for himself in England.



Nick Rizzo

DEBUT

Born:
9-6-79, Sydney
Home State:
NSW

Team: Ternana, Italy
Ht: 174cm **Wt:** 70kg
Snapshot: Pugnacious midfielder who was at Liverpool before joining Crystal Palace, and then moving to Italy's Serie B.

Wed 13 Sept vs Italy
Sat 16 Sept vs Nigeria
Tues 19 Sept vs Honduras



Josip Skoko

DEBUT

Born: 10-12-75, Geelong
Home state:
Vic

Team: Racing Genk, Belgium
Ht: 177cm **Wt:** 77kg
Snapshot: Elegant midfielder called up to replace injured Paul Okon



Mark Viduka

ATLANTA

Born: 19-10-75, Melbourne
Home state:
Vic

Team: Leeds United, England
Ht: 187cm **Wt:** 91kg
Snapshot: Strapping striker with a delicate touch and a voracious appetite for goals.



Kasey Wehrman

DEBUT

Born: 16-8-77,
Cloncurry, Qld
Home state:
Qld

Team: Perth Glory
Ht: 180cm **Wt:** 75kg
Snapshot: Midfielder with fiery streak and a battery that never needs recharging.



Clayton Zane

DEBUT

Born: 12-7-77,
Newcastle, NSW
Home state:
ACT

Team: Molde, Norway
Ht: 188cm **Wt:** 92kg
Snapshot: Strapping striker. Holds ball up well but needs to increase his goal output.



Raul Blanco

Australian coach

Adrian Santrac

Assistant coach



OLYMPIC PREVIEW: TEAM BY TEAM

By Richard Kreider

GROUP A

Australia - Italy - Nigeria - Honduras

AUSTRALIA

The 16-nation Sydney 2000 football draw for men had done no favours for the Olyroos where their three Group A opponents, Italy, defending champions Nigeria and Honduras, make it arguably the toughest group of the competition to qualify from.

Certainly, a lion-hearted performance from our young stars of soccer, under our stars of the Southern Cross, could very well produce a victory of golden dimensions.

While most of the headlines continue to centre on the powerful Brazilians, our Aussie youngsters have been quietly and confidently priming themselves for the crucial opening encounter with another of the tournament favourites, Italy.

The Olyroos may have missed out on the artistic mid-field wizardry of Leeds United's injured wunderkind Harry Kewell, but who is to say his absence will dent the team's chances?

Certainly, coach Raul Blanco is not radiating any distress signals about this setback, despite the daunting task of facing the skilful Azzurri, first up.

Their match preparations have already seen victories over Kuwait and South Africa to warrant Blanco's dearth of anxiety attacks, although he must sometimes be tempted into taking up nail-biting, due to the late arrival of some of his prime players which has left him with very little time in getting the group to gel.

Only three of the squad play in this country; Simon Colosimo, Kasey Wehrman and late inclusion Michael

Turnbull, although any of this trio would be able to hold their own overseas.

The lightning-fast left sided raider Stan Lazaridis will be one of Blanco's aces as will without question, the dynamic netbuster Mark Viduka, who disregarded emotional pleas from his club Leeds United to remain in England, in order to honour a promise to Blanco that he would participate at Sydney 2000.

HONDURAS

Despite a semi-final penalty shoot-out victory over Mexico and a surprise grand final triumph against the USA in their CONCACAF group, Honduras are not expected to be a finalist in what is a very tough group.

But that's not say the team is inferior. They will be looking for their inspiration from players like striker David Suazo, who plays for Italian club Cagliari, forwards Elvis Scot and Carlos Paez de Oliveira from Platense and Olympia respectively.

The coach is Ramon Maradiaga, Honduras' captain of the 1982 Spanish World Cup squad.

ITALY

The powerful Italian Olympic team jetted into Melbourne last Thursday to a warm welcome from a mass of media and many enthusiastic supporters.

The European Under-21 Champions are unquestionably strong medal favourites, if player calibre and credentials are anything to go by — and they usually are.

To give you an idea of what the tournament means to the 1936 Gold medal winners, the Serie A competition has been placed on hold for probably the first time in its illustrious history, until after the games.

This, of course, enables them to bring their strongest squad without any of the

unpleasant club resistance problems that have harmed the potentiality of a number of participating nations.

The entire squad, under coach and former Italian icon Marco Tardelli, ply their trade in their own country.

NIGERIA

Notwithstanding the absence of Kanu, defending champions Nigeria have always been a threat at youth level and Sydney 2000 will be no exception.

The contingent consists of prime players such as Celestine Babayaro of Chelsea, Furo Iyenemi (Antwerp),

GROUP B

Chile - Korea Republic - Morocco - Spain

CHILE

Chile qualified after finishing runners-up to Brazil in the CONMEBOL qualifying group final phase.

The South American nation are hoping to come to Australia with seasoned striker, 33-year old Zamorano as well as Auxerre defender Pedro Reyes and Udinese midfielder David Pizarro which along with veteran goalkeeper Nelson Tapia, could well be the back-bone of the first 11.

Defenders Cristian Alvarez, Claudio Maldonado and Pablo Contreras, midfielders Francisco Arrue and Rodrigo Nunez and forwards Reinaldo Navia, Hector Tapia and Colo Colo's Sebastian Gonzalez will also be battling for first team honours.

KOREA REP.

Korea Republic has the talent to surprise any quality team on any day. Myung Bo Hong is an expert defender and is likely to link up with Ji Sung Park of the Japanese club Kyoto Purple Sanga, who

is one of the youngest players in the squad at 19 years of age.

The side qualified as one of three countries from the AFC region and

could cause a headache for the media, in terms of shirt names, since their 18-man squad consists of four Park's, four Kim's and three Lee's!

MOROCCO

Morocco, one of four qualifiers from the CAF region, will find the going tough in this group.

Striker Salaheddine Bassir of the Spanish club Deportivo La Coruna, is expected to feature prominently for Morocco alongside 18-year old Jaoad Zairi, the squad's youngest team member who plays for Gueugnon of France.

SPAIN

The Spanish are another without over-age players but that hasn't diminished the talent in their squad which is expected to move past the preliminary stage, having qualified for the Olympics after defeating Slovakia for third placing at the U21 European Championship.

The pick of the bunch include Gabri and Carlos Puyol who are both from FC Barcelona, and forward Jose Mari, who is with Serie A side AC Milan.

GROUP C

Cameroon - Czech Republic - Kuwait - USA

CAMEROON

Cameroon has been rocked by a regular stream of withdrawals of star players who have decided to choose club before country, if they hadn't already sustained an injury.

Liverpool's classy defender Rigobert Song is the latest departure from the squad that qualified from the

CAF Region. The youngest player of the tournament is one of Cameroon's goalkeepers, 16-year old Carlos Kameni from French side Le Havre.

CZECH REP.

The Czech Republic is here as runners-up to Italy in the U21 European Championship.

Hence, they will be no push over since they have arrived with the likes of Naples midfielder Marek Jankulovski and forwards Marek Heinz and Milan Baros. With their clubs unable to supply more than two

players, because of international and domestic commitments, Slavia Prague forward Tomas Dosek has been left out, ahead of defenders Lukas Dosek and Adam Petrous.

KUWAIT

Kuwait qualified for the tournament along with Korea Republic and Japan from the AFC Region.

Goalkeeper Shehab Kankone, 26-year old defender Jamal Abdulrahman of the Al Tadamon club, middle men



Gianluca Zambrotta: One of Italy's prominent stars.

Adel Al-Anezi and 29-year old Abdullah Saihan, and striker Bashar Abdulaziz are likely to be the main players for the Kuwaiti team which is not expected to progress from the group.

USA

The North American team has been reinforced with 32-year-old Jeff Agoos of Washington's DC United, the strong defender has represented the USA senior team 101 times.

Liverpool custodian Brad Friedel, who has made almost 70 senior appearances for his country, makes a second Olympics in place of the injured Adin Brown. Frankie Hejduk is the other over-age team member, a 26-year old defender from the German club Bayer Leverkusen.

The squad has also included Landon Donovan, an 18-year old forward who is also at the Bundesliga side and reported to be one of the rising stars in the game.

GROUP D

Brazil - Japan - Slovakia - South Africa

BRAZIL

Medal contenders Brazil have been training solidly since arriving in Queensland with their every move scrutinised, recorded and reported by more than 50 travelling media representatives.

Similarly with the Italians and Spanish, the South Americans have not included any over-age players which is no real problem, since they can forever call on an abundance of talent from an intensely passionate footballing nation.

Alex, who turns 23 the day his side plays their first round match against Slovakia, is one of Brazil's important play-makers.

The creative midfielder currently plays for Serie A side Parma. Target man Ronaldinho, from South American club Gremio, is almost certain to play a significant part in coach Wanderley Luxemburgo's plans.

It is likely Geovanni of the Cruzeiro club and Lucas of French side Rennes will also be heavily involved. Luxemburgo sent the side to Sydney's Olympic village last weekend to allow the squad a chance to experience being an

The side left home with a victory over Group B contenders Morocco at their National Stadium, to take their unbeaten run to 17 under French coach Philippe Troussier.

AS Rome midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata will be one to watch, along with 23-year-old J-League striker Tomoyuki Hirase of the Kashima Antlers club.

Over 5000 Japanese fans are expected to watch their side take on Brazil at Brisbane's Gabba, together with over 300 media. Each squad member has been promised over AU\$100,000 if they can take home gold.

SLOVAKIA

Slovakia finished fourth in the recent U23 European championships and could very well go close again.

They warmed up for their opening match against Brazil with a confidence lifting 5-1 caning of NSL Premiers Perth Glory last Saturday night at the WACA Ground.

Coach Dusan Radolsky said it will be considered a success if the team qualifies from the group.

SOUTH AFRICA

Despite a 1-0 warm-up loss to the Olyroos, South Africa are good enough to cause a few upsets in their group.

The squad includes 27-year old midfielder Dumisa Ngobe who is from Turkish club Ankaragucu and the electrifying Quentin Fortune of Manchester United.

THE DRAW

Group A

13-09-00 [2] Adelaide 18:30 Nigeria vs. Honduras
13-09-00 [1] Melbourne 20:00 Australia vs. Italy
16-09-00 [10] Adelaide 18:30 Italy vs. Honduras
16-09-00 [9] Sydney FS 20:00 Australia vs. Nigeria
19-09-00 [18] Adelaide 18:30 Italy vs. Nigeria
19-09-00 [17] Sydney FS 20:00 Australia vs. Honduras

Group B

14-09-00 [3] Adelaide 18:30 Korea Republic vs. Spain
14-09-00 [4] Melbourne 20:00 Morocco vs. Chile
17-09-00 [11] Adelaide 18:30 Korea Republic vs. Morocco
17-09-00 [12] Melbourne 20:00 Spain vs. Chile
20-09-00 [19] Adelaide 18:30 Korea Republic vs. Chile
20-09-00 [20] Melbourne 20:00 Spain vs. Morocco

Group C

13-09-00 [6] Brisbane 19:00 Cameroon vs. Kuwait
13-09-00 [5] Canberra 20:00 United States vs. Czech Rep
16-09-00 [14] Brisbane 19:00 Czech Republic vs. Kuwait
16-09-00 [13] Canberra 20:00 United States vs. Cameroon
19-09-00 [22] Brisbane 19:00 Czech Republic vs. Cameroon
19-09-00 [21] Melbourne 20:00 United States vs. Kuwait

Group D

14-09-00 [7] Brisbane 19:00 Brazil vs. Slovakia
14-09-00 [8] Canberra 20:00 South Africa vs. Japan
17-09-00 [15] Brisbane 19:00 Brazil vs. South Africa
17-09-00 [16] Canberra 20:00 Slovakia vs. Japan
20-09-00 [23] Brisbane 19:00 Brazil vs. Japan
20-09-00 [24] Canberra 20:00 Slovakia vs. South Africa

QUARTER-FINALS

23-09-00 [27] Adelaide 18:30 Winner C vs. 2nd D
23-09-00 [28] Brisbane 19:00 Winner D vs. 2nd C
23-09-00 [25] Sydney FS 20:00 Winner A vs. 2nd B
23-09-00 [26] Melbourne 20:00 Winner B vs. 2nd A

SEMIFINALS

26-09-00 [29] Sydney FS 20:00 Winner 25 vs. Winner 27
26-09-00 [30] Melbourne 20:00 Winner 26 vs. Winner 28

THIRD PLACE

29-09-00 [31] Sydney FS 20:00 L 29 vs. L 30

FINAL

30-09-00 [32] Sydney OS 12:00 Winner 29 vs. Winner 30

ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Country
1908	UK	Denmark	Netherlands	UK
1912	UK	Denmark	Netherlands	Sweden
1920	Belgium	Spain	Netherlands	Belgium
1924	Uruguay	Switzerland	Sweden	France
1928	Uruguay	Argentina	Italy	Netherlands
1932	No Football Competition			
1936	Italy	Austria	Norway	Germany
1948	Sweden	Yugoslavia	Denmark	UK
1952	Hungary	Yugoslavia	Sweden	Finland
1956	USSR	Yugoslavia	Bulgaria	Australia
1960	Yugoslavia	Denmark	Hungary	Italy
1964	Hungary	Czechoslovakia	East Germany	Japan
1968	Hungary	Bulgaria	Japan	Mexico
1972	Poland	Hungary	GDR & USSR	W.Germany
1976	GDR	Poland	USSR	Canada
1980	Czechoslovakia	GDR	USSR	USSR
1984	France	Brazil	Yugoslavia	USA
1988	USSR	Brazil	FRG	South Korea
1992	Spain	Poland	Ghana	Spain
1996 (men)	Nigeria	Argentina	Brazil	USA
1996 (women)	USA	China PR	Norway	USA



QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION

"Perry Park" Abbotsford Road, Mayne Brisbane 4006.

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ROSS CALLS IT A DAY

By Glenn Davis

Rochedale Rovers and former Brisbane Strikers and Queensland keeper Graham Ross has decided to call it quits from the game he's played almost his entire life.

"Rossie" as he's more affectionately known by both teammates and opponents, started the game as a tiny five-year-old and at still a young age for a keeper is retiring at just 32 while he's still at the top.

Ross wants to leave the game on his own terms rather than receiving the tap on the shoulder to be told his playing days are numbered.

However, his involvement in the game won't entirely be lost as he intends to become a goalkeeping coach next season at all club levels.

"It's sad for me and there's going to be a huge hole in my life," Ross told his fans in a recent article.

"I'd like to thank everybody involved with soccer in Queensland. I've made a lot of friends over the years."

Ross, who played 10 seasons in the Queensland Premier League and six in the national league for the Brisbane Strikers, has a wealth of experience to impart to any budding goalkeeper.

He rated Brisbane Strikers historic grand final win over Sydney United at Lang Park in 1997 as his career highlight despite being a reserve to Clint Bolton.

Other highlights included earning Queensland representative honours and a premier league grand final win with his club Rochedale.

Ross was recently overlooked by

newly appointed Queensland coach Miron Bleiberg for the interstate match against New South Wales which was another factor in his decision to retire.

Ross was told by Bleiberg he wanted to give some of the younger keepers in the league the opportunity to play for the Maroons.

"Miron told me he wanted to give some of the younger guys a chance and that was fine by me," he said.

However, Bleiberg didn't dispense with his services entirely and asked him to coach the three Queensland keepers, Jason Lucas, Jamie Irwin and Trevor Gilliland.

Ross, who also played with Coalstars and Olympic, rated Brisbane City national league keeper Kim Wishart as the biggest influence on his career.



Graham Ross: Calls it quits.

"It's sad for me and there's going to be a huge hole in my life."

CLEM JONES GOLD MEDAL

Brownlie caps super season with top award



Royce Brownlie receives his award from Clem Jones.

Brisbane Lions' striker Royce Brownlie capped off a memorable Queensland premier league season when he won the coveted Clem Jones Gold Medal in Brisbane last week.

Brownlie, (pictured receiving his medal from Brisbane's former Lord Mayor Clem Jones) polled 22 votes to beat Brisbane City midfielder Damien Waugh and Bundaberg's Tony Roebuck by one point.

The Clem Jones medal is awarded to the league's best and fairest player during the season's 27 games.

A player sent off is deemed ineligible.

Brisbane Lions' former striker Sasha Radulovic finished fourth with 20 points, only two points behind Brownlie, despite not playing most of the second round after he quit the club to try his luck with a national league club in Sydney.

Brownlie polled consistently throughout the

league's three rounds and finished the premier league season as the leading scorer with 22 goals, four clear of nearest rival Matt Olley from Rochedale.

Brownlie, who had a brief stint in the national league last season with Brisbane Strikers, also was judged Queensland's best player in the recent interstate clash against New South Wales at Perry Park.

No goalkeeper has ever won the Clem Jones medal, but Toowoomba Raiders' keeper Trevor Gilliland went close to creating history when he finished fifth with 19 points.

Brisbane Lions have dominated the Clem Jones medal in recent years winning it three times in the past four years.

The Clem Jones medal was won by the Gold Coast's Eddie Lees last year but Lions' stalwart and former Queensland and national league great Steve Jackson won it the previous two years.

Meanwhile Olympic fever hit the Gold Coast last Thursday when a crowd in excess of 10,000 turned up to watch Brazil's superstars beat the Brisbane Strikers 3-0 in a friendly at Carrara.

Roads leading to the Carrara venue were jammed packed for the pre-Olympic curtain raiser with many spectators forced to park kilometres from the venue.

Brazil took charge of the game from the outset and took a 1-0 lead after just five minutes from the penalty spot from Roger.

Lucio made it 2-0 in the 19th minute while Roger added the Brazilian's third in the 33rd minute when he finished off a brilliant move involving several one touches between Giovanni and Fabio Aurelio.

Strikers goalkeeper Daniel Duke and substitute Nathan Coe stood out for the Strikers with officials believing the result could easily have been far greater except for some fine saves.

The Clem Jones Medal is awarded to the League's Best and Fairest Player during the season's 27 games.

AUSSIES AROUND THE GLOBE



With Arvind Hickman Did you know that there are over 100 Australian soccer players plying their trade in many of the top leagues around the world? Every year new names emerge on the world stage, painting the picture of green and gold into a portrait of global recognition Aussie Around The Globe is our weekly look at the exploits of these players and their performance.

Did you know that there are over 100 Australian soccer players plying their trade in many of the top leagues around the world?

Every year new names emerge on the world stage, painting the picture of green and gold into a portrait of global recognition.



Player of the Week: Paul Agostino to 1860 Munich's rescue again.

'Aussies Around the Globe' is our weekly look at the exploits of these players and their performances.

Chile: It is worth mentioning that Europe and Asia aren't the only continents where Aussies ply their trade.

Marcelo Pena has been a regular in Chilean first division side Everton, and recently featured in their 2-0 loss to Italiano.

While Leo Carle plays for Uruguayan club Nacional. 'Aussies Around the Globe' will keep you posted on our South American representatives.

England: Harry Kewell underwent surgery last Friday on his damaged Achilles tendon and hopes to be back in action by Christmas.

Premier League: Socceroos Mark Viduka and Danny Tiatto both played full games in the mid-week clash between Leeds United and Manchester City.

Tiatto's Man City won a closely fought encounter 2-1, with Viduka failing to score in his last game before the Olympics.

Tiatto picked up a groin strain which prevented him from taking part in City's weekend clash with Liverpool.

Other Aussies to feature in the Premier League include Mark Schwarzer, who played in both of Boro's games over the past week, and John Aloisi, who came on in the 70th minute for Coventry against Newcastle.

Division One: Shaun Murphy, Jason Van Blerk and Kevin Muscat all had full games, while Jason Kearon kept a clean sheet for Crewe.

Germany: Paul Agostino has come to the rescue for 1860 Munich after scoring twice in their match against Borussia Dortmund.

Agostino scored first in the 34th minute and then the match winner in the 86th minute, to give 1860 Munich an unlikely 3-2 victory, and hand Dortmund their first defeat. Agostino has scored four goals in four games to be equal second on the Bundesliga scorers chart.

Greece: Socceroo Pablo Cardozo has been featuring regularly in the Greek first division with club Athinaikos.

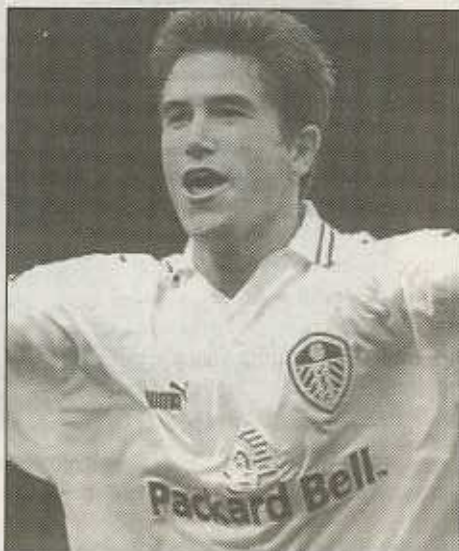
Cardozo recently played a full game in Athinaikos's 3-0 loss away to Iraklis.

Transfer Market: Parramatta Power midfielder Jacob Burns has signed for Leeds United on a 3 year contract. Burns has been added to the senior squad that will compete in upcoming Champions League games against AC Milan, Beskitas and Barcelona.

Adelaide City's Mathew Kemp has been transferred to Italian C1 team Spal S.P.A. Anthony Maslic of St. George (NSW) has been transferred to NK Sibenik of Croatia, and former Joey, Iain Fyfe, has been cleared to join Scottish Premier League club

Player of the Week: Paul Agostino gave us two reasons why he should be player of the week for a second time this season. His midweek performance against Borussia Dortmund, scoring twice in a 3-2 victory, was first-class.

The 1860 Munich striker is hot at the moment, scoring an average of a goal a game. Can anyone stop him?



Harry Kewell: Finally had surgery.

Breakers Pre-Season Challenge Cup

Round 3

MARCONI (A Costanzo 71m, S Radulovic 79m)	2
SYDNEY OLYMPIC (N Carle 28m)	1
Referee: S Rostocic.	
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS (A Harper 38m pen, D McBreen 71m)	2
NORTHERN SPIRIT	0
Referee: B Daniello	
Crowd: 757 at Breakers Stadium.	

Final

MARCONI STALLIONS (M Babic 57m)	1 (3)
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS (A Surjan 20m)	1 (1)
Marconi won on penalties.	
Referee: J Bowdler	
Crowd: 1020 at Breakers Stadium;	
Player of the series: Glenn Moore (Newcastle Breakers).	

Final Wrap

of the secret Olympic Cauldron.

The Breakers have had their ownership wrangles, player walkouts and now no referee for the second most important game of the series.

Just after the true blue soccer faithful had settled into their seats at Breakers Stadium to watch the star studded Northern Spirit and Sydney Olympic outfits fight out for third spot in the Breakers pre-season challenge the announcement came over the public address system that the match had been cancelled because of unforeseen circumstances.

Unforeseen circumstances humbug it was just another Breakers administration, or lack of it, bungle as the embattled continues bumbling along.

On top of all their other off field dramas someone forgot to tell Soccer Australia they had moved the tournament forward from 6 o'clock to 1pm. The referees appointed by Soccer Australia weren't at the ground for the one o'clock start to the final.

An attempt to have former Socceroo and now Breakers assistant coach David Lowe control the match was rejected by the coaches.

"We are disappointed to say the least," Northern Spirit

coach Graham Arnold said.

"The Northern Spirit club spent a lot of money on our team to compete here putting us up and there's 20 of us, in a motel for five days.

"Lee Sterrey has come up with a great idea and it's not his fault we can't play today.

"It one person's fault in administration that didn't tell

"Everything in our power will be done to make it up to the supporters and as CEO of the Breakers I must accept full responsibility and wear it on the chin."

The day didn't improve much from there for the Breakers as Marconi collected the Challenge Cup and the \$15 000 winners purse with a 3-1



Marconi: Pre-season Challenge Cup Champions.

the referees of the change of time."

Breakers CEO Morris McAlister later told ABSW that he was to take the blame and that the club would make it up to the supporters.

"We sincerely apologise to our supporters and the teams," McAlister said.

win on penalties.

The match was all locked up at 1-1 at the end of regulation time. Two great goals, one in each half from two entertaining teams.

Newcastle was first to score, 20 minutes into the first stanza, through Antony Surjan.

Keun Kim fouled Breakers striker John Buonavoglia.

Marconi equalised 12 minutes into the second half through Mark Babic who drove the ball low and hard from the edge of the area to beat the diving Breakers keeper Bob Catlin.

Newcastle Breakers central

POINTS TABLE AFTER ROUND 3 OF 3:

Club	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Breakers	3	1	0	2	3	1	5
Marconi	3	1	0	2	3	2	5
Olympic	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Spirit	3	0	2	1	1	4	1

Surjan curled a dead ball around the wall and into the net from 25 metres after replacement referee John Bowdler awarded a free kick when Marconi defender Pan-

defender Glenn Moore was named player of the series.

"Overall it was a great tournament but we are a bit underdone in fitness at the moment," Breakers coach Lee Sterrey said.

"I wasn't disappointed we didn't lose a game with three draws and a win.

"Penalty shoot outs are a real toss of the coin really."

"For Marconi it was more a matter of keeping the players feet on the ground with expectations high in the camp as they were to play the Brazilian Olympic team at Marconi Stadium on the following day.

"I'm pleased with the outcome of the tournament and tomorrow is another big game," Marconi coach Eddie Krncevic said.

"Concentration out there early today was a problem and with the Brazil game that's understandable.

"Our second half was a lot better and it is a bonus to win the cup and fifteen grand."

Marconi ended up losing 4-0 to the Brazilians the following day.

By Greg Danvers

The third place playoff was abandoned in what can only be described as a debacle of

Sydney Olympic Games proportions.

The Olympics have had the ticketing debacle, the Kevan Gosper and Phil Coles scandals along with the unveiling

Greek-Australian Sports



His Eminence Archbishop Stylianos addresses the crowd at the Westin Hotel.



The honourable Prime Minister John Howard shares a quiet word with the Archbishop.



ROLL OF EXCELLENCE



HALL OF CHAMPIONS



ROLL OF HONOUR

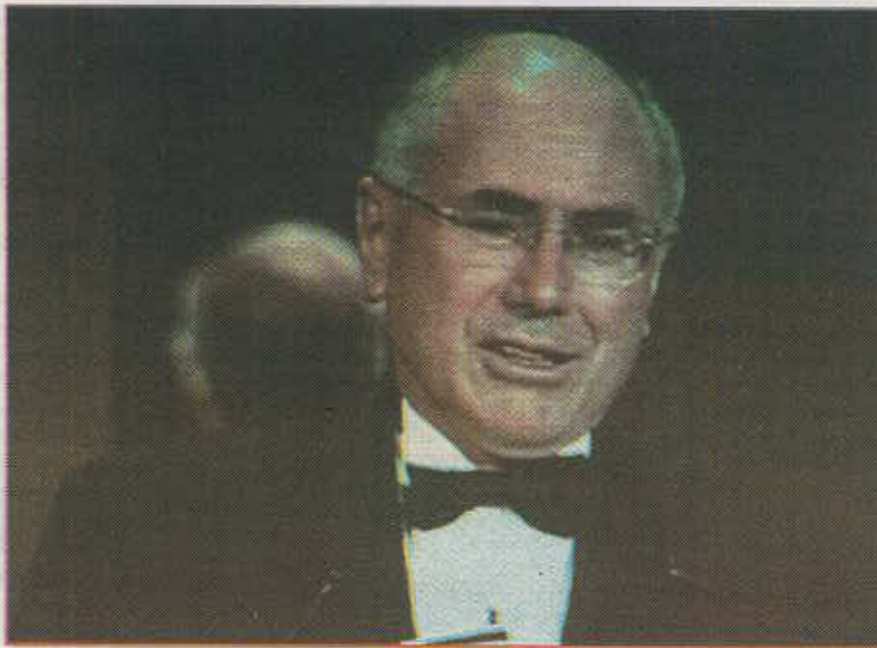


The PM congratulates disabled ten-pin bowling champion Magdalene Paschall.

ports Hall of Fame



The PM with his lovely wife Jeanette.



John Howard announced his \$80,000 donation to ProviCare.



CHAMPIONS



ROLL OF ACHIEVEMENT



Sir Arthur George addresses the crowd with his usual pomp and ceremony.



ROLL OF DISTINCTION



BILL TURNER CUP



Action from the Inaugural Bill Turner Trophy.



It's a goal! Emily Churches scores for Bathurst.



It's official: The prize is handed over.



The Boys from Epping hold aloft their prize.

CHAMPIONS GIRLS: WESTFIELD SPORTS HIGH

BILL TURNER TROPHY FINAL — WEDNESDAY SEPT 6

WESTFIELDS SPORTS HIGH 3
(Sarah Cooke 2m, 43m; Elisha Passarello 18m)
SOUTH GRAFTON HIGH 0
Referee: G Brown.

WESTFIELDS Sports High won the inaugural Bill Turner Trophy girls' soccer tournament with a hard fought 3-0 win over South Grafton High School.

Sarah Cooke opened the scoring in the second minute after working her way into the area and shot at goal, the ball taking a deflection off a South Grafton defender and into the net. South Grafton keeper Shandi Reti was wrong footed by the deflection.

Sixteen minutes later Elisha Passarello, who

showed in the tournament strength well above her diminutive size, tapped home from a goalmouth scramble.

Cooke put the match out of reach for the South Grafton side 11 minutes after the break when she chipped Reti from 25 metres to take the score to 3-0.

'I'm extremely happy given the restrictions on not being able to play your state players,' Westfields Sports High coach David Erwin said of his sides win over South Grafton.

South Grafton centre midfielder Kenishia Warren was named the Star Player of the Year in the Bill Turner Trophy.

Although beaten by Westfield Sports High the young and much smaller side from South Grafton went home happy knowing they are the second best side, from almost 180 teams, in the competition that this year came under the auspices of the Northern NSW Schools Soccer.

SEMI-FINALS — TUESDAY SEPT 5

SOUTH GRAFTON 3
(Kenishia Warren 4m, 31m; Matisse Ward 53m)
KINCUMBER 1
(Analise Allan 12m)
Referee: C Stevens.

South Grafton High School became the first team to advance to the Bill Turner Trophy final with a convincing 3-1 win over the Central Coast's Kincumber High.

A double to Kenishia Warren and a free kick strike to Matisse Ward the goal scorers for South Grafton with Analise Allan the scorer for Kincumber.

Warren opened the scoring in the eighth minute with a right foot strike from ten metres.

Allan equalised for Kincumber four minutes later with a right-footed shot from 25 metres.

Warren steered home a corner one minute into the second half while Matisse Ward struck a dead ball free kick from outside the penalty area high into the net to confirm the result and a final berth.

'The girls played well in trying conditions,' South Grafton coach Gerry O'Connor said of the win in windy conditions.

'They're much bigger than us but we hung in there and wore them down.'

WESTFIELDS SPORTS HIGH 2
(Rosanna Ciacciarelli 10m, 24m)
BATHURST 0
Referee: G Brown.

Westfields Sports High confirmed favouritism for the Bill Turner Trophy final after winning 2-0 over Bathurst in the second semi final.

Rosanna Ciacciarelli scored two individual goals in the first half to send her team into the inaugural Bill Turner Trophy final.

Ciacciarelli turned the opposition twice to set herself for a 10 metre shot on goal that was calmly slotted past the Bathurst goalkeeper Renee Aberley.

Six minutes before the break Ciacciarelli was sent goal bound when Elisha Passarello neatly headed on for her team-mate. Ciacciarelli again calmly slotted the ball home.

'The girls played well and had the desire to win today,' Westfields Sports High coach Geoff Stanmore said.

LG BILL TURNER CUP SEMI-FINALS - TUESDAY SEPT 5

EPPING 2
(Tim Gardiner 40m, Matthew Peatey 44m pen)
PALM BEACH-CURRUMBIN 1
(Ross Fenech 10m)
Referee: K Berry.

Epping High School made their first LG Bill Turner Cup final since winning the prestigious schoolboy soccer tournament in 1990 with a 2-1 hard fought semi final win over Palm Beach-Currumbin.

Palm Beach took the lead in the 10th minute when Ross Fenech curled a corner into the net.

The match stayed at 1-0 to Palm Beach until half time after Epping missed the first of two penalties in the match in the 16th minute.

Ten minutes into the second half Epping equalised through a clinically finished goal to Tim Gardiner.

Palm Beach-Currumbin were down a man several minutes later when referee Kerry Berry had no hesitation in sending their keeper from the field for a professional foul. Epping's Matthew Peatey buried the ball into the right of the net from the spot.

NOTRE DAME 2
(Frankie Lagana 3m, 60m)
MENAI 1
(Kieran Gleeson 56m)
Referee: L Osland.

Notre Dame College from Shepparton became the first Victorian team, in 22 years, to make the final of the LG Bill Turner Cup with a gritty 2-1 win over Menai High.

Frankie Lagana was the star for Notre Dame scoring in the third minute with a well-directed free kick into the left of goal.

Menai, probably the better-organised side of the two, had ample opportunities to equalise throughout but it was not until the 56th minute that they found the net. Kieran Gleeson steered a left footed drive into the net at the far corner from 28 metres out.

With unlimited substitutions allowed in the tournament Lagana returned in the dying minutes of the match to steal the victory and send the Victorians into raptures.

Lagana, with his first touch of the ball after returning to the field, showed great strength and balance to round the Menai keeper James Randall and then beat two defenders to steer the ball into an open goal.

'Nerve racking stuff this soccer,' Notre Dame manager Peter Dmytriw said.

'We lost our shape a bit when under pressure but

On Tuesday last week the culmination of another 12 months of hard work was played out on the pitch of the NBN Soccer League premiers Edgeworth Eagles at Jack McLaughlin Oval situated in the City of Lake Macquarie near Newcastle when the LG Bill Turner Cup and Trophy concluded.

Lake Macquarie Mayor John Kilpatrick hosted a Civic Reception, as he has done for the past few years, in the council chambers for the eight visiting sides.

'I notice we have teams from all over in the LG Bill Turner Cup and Trophy,' Mayor Kilpatrick said in his welcoming address to the young athletes.

'This is the sixth or seventh time I have had the pleasure in welcoming teams here to the City of Lake Macquarie for the Bill Turner Cup and now the Bill Turner Trophy.'

'To all of our visitors welcome to Lake Macquarie this is a tournament that is bigger than the FA Cup in the terms of the number of teams and it's no mean feat when you consider the number of teams involved to get to the semi finals. It is a tried saying but everyone is going to be a winner by being at this particular tournament.'

The Bill Turner Trophy was introduced this year under the auspices of Northern NSW Schools Soccer committee and nearly 180 teams contested the series. Couple that with around 600 boys sides and you have a logistical nightmare to organise and coordinate.



BILL TURNER CUP



Epping Boys High: Champions Boys

LG BILL TURNER CUP FINAL — WEDNESDAY SEPT 6

EPPING BOYS HIGH 2
(Michael Mouyis 34m, Matthew Peatey 44m pen)
NOTRE DAME COLLEGE 1
(Frankie Lagana 28m)
Referee: S Bird.

Epping Boys High won their first LG Bill Turner Cup soccer final since 1990 downing Notre Dame College 2-1.

Notre Dame College from Shepparton was the first Victorian side to reach the final of the coveted schoolboys soccer competition.

Both schools will receive a television from LG Electronics Australia Pty Ltd in a gesture of goodwill by the Soccer Australia sponsor.

Mr Christopher Kim managing director of LG Electronics was at the LG Bill Turner Cup final to present the medallions and trophies but stunned the gathered crowd and players with his announcement of the prize for each school.

Epping will receive a 25" television for the school while Notre Dame College will pick-up a 21" set from LG Electronics Australia.

Notre Dame was the first to score through Frankie Lagana when a cross came in from the left side in the 28th minute. Lagana was able to beat Epping keeper William Tan to the ball and tapped in for the lead just before half time.

Epping equalised four minutes after the break when skipper Michael Mouyis threaded a free kick, from 25 metres out, through a gap in the wall to beat the Notre Dame keeper Stefan Zito at the far post.

Epping sealed their second Bill Turner Cup, previously won in 1990 over Whitebridge (Lake Macquarie), when Matthew Peatey slammed the ball into the roof of the net from the penalty spot 10 minutes later.

'The boys have played really well throughout the LG Bill Turner Cup,' Epping coach David Erwin said.

'I thought we peaked at the right time.'

Notre Dame College had the weight of Victoria on their shoulders being the first side from south of the border to make the finals series but will travel home content they gave their all and were in no way out-classed on the day.

'We were 1-0 up at half time and things were looking good but unfortunately the Epping boys were too strong and saw the game right out,' Notre Dame manager Peter Dmytriw said.



LG Electronic's Mr Christopher Kim with the Prize.

BILL TURNER TROPHY THIRD PLACE PLAYOFF - WEDNESDAY SEPT 6

KINCUMBER HIGH 2
(Sarah James 9m, 25m)
BATHURST HIGH 2
(Alison Tauton 3m, Emily Churches 33m)
Referee: C Binks.

Kincumber and Bathurst High Schools fought out a gallant 2-2 draw to tie for third spot in the Bill Turner Trophy.

Alison Tauton scored first for Bathurst in the fourth minute tapping home a spilt ball by Kincumber's keeper Malita Hill.

Kincumber striker Sarah James evened the scoring in the ninth minute and then scored again with five minutes remaining before the break.

Bathurst's best player of the finals series Emily Churches cleaned up at the far post in the 33rd minute to equalise.

Both teams worked hard at trying to break the deadlock with the match finishing a 2-2 draw and a fair indication of the match and teams.

'The girls had a great time and also played some quality football,' Bathurst coach Greg Ballantyne said.

LG BILL TURNER CUP THIRD PLACE PLAYOFF - WEDNESDAY SEPT 6

MENAI HIGH 2
(Matthew Clarkson 4m, David Braun 55m)
PALM BEACH-CURRUMBIN SPORTS HIGH 1
(Matt Hilton 17m)
Referee: R Arthur.

Menai High was able to conjure up a 2-1 win over Palm Beach-Currumbin, when a draw looked imminent, in the third place play-off of the LG Bill Turner Cup.

Matthew Clarkson had Menai off to a good start with a left footed drive from 20 metres out after weaving his way through the centre of the park four minutes into the match.

Palm Beach-Currumbin was back in the match and on equal terms in the 17th minute through Matt Hilton. Hilton drilled the ball into the net from the corner of the area.

'It was a pretty even match we missed a few chances and they took theirs,' Palm Beach-Currumbin coach Sam Wiseman said.



Runner-up Notre Dame College.



The girls parade their prize.



We are the Champions: Epping Boys High.

All matches were played at Jack McLaughlan Oval, Edgeworth in the City of Lake Macquarie.

Reports by Greg Danvers
ABSW Newcastle
Correspondent

Pictures supplied by
Northern NSW Soccer
Federation

Special thanks to Mr Christopher Kim managing director of LG Electronics Australia Pty Ltd, Bill Turner, Noel Cocking, Lindsay Hewison, Dudley Lewis, Warren Sheelah, Bob Brooks and Barry Kemp.

A Message from Bill Turner

to Players All Students

**WHY RUIN YOUR BODY
AND SPORTING CAREER?**

SAY "NO WAY"!

to
**Cigarettes -
Alcohol -
Drugs.**

SOCCER WOMAN

Matildas

Head Coach: Chris Tanzey
Assistant Coach: Ian Murray

Dianne Alagich

DEBUT

Born: 12-5-79, Adelaide
Home state: SA
Team: SASI Pirates
Ht: 169cm **Wt:** 64kg
Snapshot: Won her way into World Cup team in mid-1999. Has become a key defender who is ultra-reliable.

Sharon Black

DEBUT

Born: 4-4-71, Adelaide
Home state: SA
Team: SASI Pirates
Ht: 165cm **Wt:** 60kg
Snapshot: Dynamic left midfielder who has scored a record four hat-tricks for Australia.

Bryony Duus

DEBUT

Born: 7-10-77, Brisbane
Home state: Qld
Team: QAS Sting
Ht: 162cm **Wt:** 62kg
Snapshot: Never-say-die midfielder who fought her way back after missing pre-selection and having knee surgery.

Alicia Ferguson

DEBUT

Born: 31-10-81, Brisbane
Home state: Qld
Team: QAS Sting
Ht: 165cm **Wt:** 61kg
Snapshot: Striker who made her international debut in Europe at 15 and was in the 1999 World Cup team.

Alison Forman

DEBUT

Born: 17-3-99, Maitland, NSW
Home state: WA
Team: Nthn NSW Pride
Ht: 164cm **Wt:** 60kg
Snapshot: Captain since October last year and a linch-pin in midfield. Competed in 1995 and 1999 World Cups.

Heather Garriock

DEBUT

Born: 21-12-82, Liverpool
Home state: ACT
Team: NSW Sapphires
Ht: 165cm **Wt:** 58kg
Snapshot: Lively midfielder

Kelly Golebiowski

DEBUT

Born: 26-7-81, Sydney
Home state: NSW
Team: NSW Sapphires
Ht: 156cm **Wt:** 50kg
Snapshot: The youngest to represent Australia at age 14. Played in 1999 World Cup and possesses speed and skills.

Peita-Claire Hepperlin

DEBUT

Born: 24-12-81, Canberra
Home state: ACT
Team: Canberra Eclipse
Ht: 166cm **Wt:** 63kg
Snapshot: Midfielder who made her debut in March last year and was in the World Cup team three months later.

Sunni Hughes

DEBUT

Born: 9-6-68, Newcastle, NSW
Home state: NSW



The Matildas: A real medal chance for Australia.

Team: Nthn NSW Pride
Ht: 173cm **Wt:** 60kg
Snapshot: Australia's equal top goalscorer. Competed in the 1995 World Cup and has played professionally in Japan.

Kate McShea

DEBUT

Born: 13-4-83, Redcliffe, Qld
Home state: Qld
Team: QAS Sting
Ht: 176cm **Wt:** 60kg
Snapshot: Composed midfielder made debut in May this year and named in Olympic team three weeks later.

Julie Murray

DEBUT

Born: 28-4-70, Adelaide
Home state: NSW
Team: NSW Sapphires
Ht: 161cm **Wt:** 56kg
Snapshot: Has become a World-class striker and is a big occasion performer. Member of first World All-Stars team.

Cheryl Salisbury

DEBUT

Born: 8-3-74, Newcastle, NSW
Home state: ACT
Team: Nthn NSW Pride
Ht: 179cm **Wt:** 72kg
Snapshot: Equal top goalscorer who has moved to a commanding role in defence.

Bridgett Starr

DEBUT

Born: 10-12-75, Tamworth
Home state: NSW
Team: NSW Sapphires
Ht: 173cm **Wt:** 63kg
Snapshot: Made her debut in 1994 at 18 against Japan. A crafty and powerful defender who competed at the 1999 Cup.

Anissa Tann-Darby

DEBUT

Born: 10-10-67, Sydney
Home State: NSW
Team: NSW Sapphires
Ht: 174cm **Wt:** 66kg
Snapshot: First player to reach 50 A international caps and remains highest-capped with 86.

Leanne Trimboli

DEBUT

Born: 10-11-75, Adelaide
Home state: SA
Team: SASI Pirates
Ht: 186cm **Wt:** 65kg
Snapshot: Fearless goalkeeper with great reflexes. Made debut in goals in January.

Sacha Wainwright

DEBUT

Born: 6-2-72, Canberra
Home state: ACT
Team: Canberra Eclipse
Ht: 165cm **Wt:** 56kg
Snapshot: Recalled last year.

Tracey Wheeler

DEBUT

Born: 26-9-67, Sydney
Home state: WA
Team: SASI Pirates
Ht: 180cm **Wt:** 74kg
Snapshot: Longest-serving and most capped goalkeeper since making her debut in 1989.

Amy Wilson

DEBUT

Born: 9-6-80, Wollongong, NSW
Home state: ACT
Team: Canberra Eclipse
Ht: 165cm **Wt:** 62kg
Snapshot: Member of the team for the 1999 World Cup. Made her international debut in 1996 at age 15 and is a good distributor from midfield.



**Gladesville Hornsby
Women's Soccer
Association**
P.O. Box 525
Gladesville NSW 2111

COACHES WANTED

**WOMENS STATE/SUPER LEAGUE
GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE U16'S
GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE U14'S**

This strong women's Association is seeking suitably qualified coaches for the above positions. Applicants should ring Colin Munn on 9652 1568 for further details.

PLAYERS WANTED

Players wanted for the above teams in 2001. First trial will be held 10am Sunday, October 29th, at George Kendall Reserve, Trumble Ave. Ermington. For further details ring Colin Munn, 9652 1568 or Adrian Jones (after Oct. 14th) 9808 2093, 0418 406800.

STARS IN THE MAKING

ABSWS's Mark Stavroulakis continues his weekly look at Junior Soccer in Australia.

Michael Di Meglio

AT A GLANCE

Full Name: Michael Di Meglio
Club: TBA
DOB: 21/3/85
Left/Right: Right
Eye Colour: Blue/Green
Hair Colour: Dark Brown
Height: 5ft6
Weight: 67kg
Positions Played: Striker

THE STATS & FACTS

Clubs Played At:
U13 — U15 Sydney Olympic
Age Started Playing Soccer: 5

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight To Date: Playing for NSW and scoring a goal in the final of the National NNSW.
Ambition: To represent Australia and to play overseas, preferably Italy.
Words Of Advice: 'Be committed to achieve success'
Best Advice Received: 'No matter what happens on the pitch as long as you give 110% every game then everyone will be happy' (Joe, Brother)

PERSONALITY INSIGHT

Favourite Actor: Sylvester Stallone
Favourite Actress: Sandra Bullock
Top 5 Movies:
-Delirious
-Dumb and Dumber
-Friday
-Don't Be A Menace To South Central While Drinking Juice In The Hood
-Speed
Favourite Comedian: Eddie Murphy
If you could be a character from any movie who would you be? Jet Lee in Romeo must die
Best ever concert: The Wiggles
5 Cd's You Couldn't Do Without?
-Wild 11
-Skitz Mix 7
-Next Friday Soundtrack
-Dr Dre - 2001
-Romeo Must Die Soundtrack
Favourite TV show: Italian Soccer Highlights on SBS
Favourite Cartoon Character: Popeye
Dinner Party For 6, Who Would You Invite?
-My 3 brothers (Joe, Paul, Robert)
-My 3 Nephews (Michael, Jason, Cristian)
Entrée: Anti-Pasto
Main Course: Chicken with Mushroom sauce and vegetables
Dessert: Oreos Mcflurry

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: "King" George Weah
Favourite Overseas Team: AC Milan
Most Admired Australian Player (Local Based): Simon Colosimo
Most Admired Australian Player (Overseas Based): Mark Viduka
Most Admired Defender: Paolo Maldini
Most Admired Midfielder: Zinedine Zidane
Most Admired Striker: Andriy Shevchenko
Most Admired Goalkeeper: Francesco Toldo
Hardest Opponent (Played): The team I don't score against

Entertaining, sharp and exciting can sum up 15-year-old young gun Michael Di Meglio.

The ace striker was one of the many young hopeful talents on show at the recent National Identification Titles held at Parklea.

Di Meglio represented the victorious NSW Under 14 side that went on to defeat a tough Northern NSW side. "It was great representing your state as it is something that you always look forward in doing. Winning it was great, and I was more than happy in being in such a good squad," said the exciting striker.

Being proud and happy was what Michael experienced as apart from his three goals scored



Michael Di Meglio: They call him "Rocky".

in the Nationals, one notable goal was in the final where Michael used his speed, skill and momentum to score a brilliant solo goal.

"I was very happy to put that goal away as it made the score line at that time 2-0, and also made my confidence sky rocket," said Michael.

Team spirit is something Michael is well aware of as he was apart of the successful youth

side of the recent Under 15 Sydney Olympic side that won seven titles in three years. "The Under 13's at Olympic pretty much kick started my career in high level soccer. The squad at that time was great as we all played for each other. As we grew older, so did our mate-ship with one another and that was pretty much the key to our success.

Unfortunately, it was a pity that most of the players from this squad have decided to go their own ways. Nevertheless I will never forget the good memories I had with this squad," said the Kogarah Marist student.

The striker certainly has an eye for goal as in his first year at Olympic, Michael Bagged 33 goals. In his second year he repeated that effort by scoring 32 goals, and last year Di Meglio finished up with 13 goals.

Overall, a mammoth goal tally, and no doubt there are many more goals to come from this young, exciting striker.

'Rocky' as he is known to his team mates is also in negotiations with a couple of National League clubs, who are after the signature of this young gun. Also, the NSW Institute of Sport, to no surprise is also after the services of Michael, with the professional training done at the Institute, who knows how high Di Meglio can go.

"The Institute have offered me a scholarship which is very good, but all will be finalised in the next few days, as negotiations with some National League clubs are also being done," said Rocky.

The young stars aim is to play with the cream of the crop in the Serie A of the Italian League, and with his goal scoring ability, anything is possible.

Rest assured, you haven't heard the last of the Di Meglio name as Michael's younger brother Robert, is a star in the making as well. The 13-year-oldstriker currently at Sydney Olympic hopes to emulate his brother's achievements soon.

Apart from soccer, Gavin is an apprentice painter and decorator, and it is sacrifices like his job that make Hartge a very dedicated player. 'We train four times at the Institute and a game so it really is hard with work. I really like the trade I am in as it gives me a fall back after soccer, but like I said earlier, I want to make a career out of soccer,' said the former St Andrews College student.

One of the 30 Joeys members in last year's World Cup runners-up campaign, Gavin's biggest thrill was putting on the Green and Gold Jersey. 'Playing against Bahrain in last year's Asian World Cup Qualifiers would have to go down as my biggest achievement yet. When we scored the one and only goal of the game, the strong 10,000 crowd went silent. It was the best feeling knowing that your country qualified for a World Cup,' said Gavin.

Starting off his career at Blacktown City in the Under 13's, it was there people realised that this young lad had potential. Through time, his name grew even stronger and getting achievements such as being apart of the Under 14 and 15 NSW state teams was a great honour.

In his third year at the ever-successful youth scheme of the NSW Institute of Sport, 'Uncle Gav' (as he is known to his mates), had many good things to say about the NSWIS.

"The Institute itself is probably one of the best youth set-ups in the world. It made me confident as a player and helped me in all aspects of my game. The facilities at the Institute are of course very professional, but the fact that as a young lad you can play much older opponents really helps your game," said Hartge.



Gavin Paul Hartge: Dedicated and knows the sacrifices that need to be made.

The future looks bright for this young star, as time is on his side. 'I really want to have a good season with the Institute and hopefully at the end of it get a couple of offers either overseas or in Australia. However, I really want to play my football, enjoy it and hopefully if all goes well, play at the highest possible level,' said the eager star.

Gavin Paul Hartge

AT A GLANCE

Full Name: Gavin Paul Hartge
Club: NSWIS
DOB: 16/6/82
Left/Right: Both
Eye Colour: Green
Hair Colour: Blond
Height: 175cm
Weight: 75kg
Positions Played: Midfield

THE STATS & FACTS

Clubs Played At:
U13 — U14 — Blacktown City Demons
U15 — Sydney Olympic
3 years at the NSW Institute
Age Started Playing Soccer: 4

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight To Date: Playing against Bahrain for the Joeys last year in the Asian World Cup qualifiers.
Ambition: To make a career in soccer
Words Of Advice: 'Put in the hard work and you'll make it anywhere'
Best Advice Received: 'Put in the hard work and you'll make it anywhere' (NSWIS Coach Kelly Cross)

PERSONALITY INSIGHT

Favourite Actor: Tom Cruise
Favourite Actress: Kirsten Dunst
Top 5 Movies:
-Small Soldiers
-Gone In 60 seconds
-Man United: The Treble
-The Scary Movie
-Road Trip
Favourite Comedian: Drew Carey
If you could be a character from any movie who would you be? Tom Cruise in Top Gun
Best ever concert: Jewel at the State Theatre
5 Cd's You Couldn't Do Without?
-Reef - Replenish
-Bon Jovi - Crossroads
-Bruce Springsteen- Greatest Hits
-Jewel — Pieces Of You
-Greatest Ever Beer Drinking Songs Volume 2
Favourite TV show: Drew Carey Show
Favourite Cartoon Character: Brain
Dinner Party For 6, Who Would You Invite?
-Niki Visser
-Megan Gale
-Jamie Redknapp
-Harry Kewell
-Michael Owen
-Zinedine Zidane
Entrée: Calamari
Main Course: A 300gram Scotch Fillet Steak with Chips
Dessert: Peaches and Cream

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: Jamie Redknapp
Favourite Overseas Team: Liverpool
Most Admired Australian Player (Local Based): Nahuel Arrarte
Most Admired Australian Player (Overseas Based): Harry Kewell
Most Admired Defender: Marcel Desailly
Most Admired Midfielder: Jamie Redknapp
Most Admired Striker: Michael Owen
Most Admired Goalkeeper: Oliver Kahn
Hardest Opponent (Played): Nick Carle



ITALY

Aldair keen to celebrate 10 years in Serie A with title

Defender Aldair celebrated his 10th anniversary in Serie A over the weekend having won the top prize in world soccer with Brazil but virtually nothing with AS Roma.

The 34-year-old believes he has only two years left to bring Fabio Capello's side the league title they have longed for since 1983.

And with Roma boasting arguably their best squad since the days of Giuseppe Giannini, Bruno Conte and Aldair's compatriot Falcao, the softly-spoken centreback says this is the year.

"Reinforcements have arrived in the shape of (Gabriel) Batistuta, Emerson and Samuel," Aldair told reporters. "The time is right... I don't want to win the championship at the last attempt."

In a country where soccer players migrate from club to club each summer with dizzying regularity, Aldair is an oddity.

He arrived as a 24-year-old in 1990, made his Serie A debut in a 4-0 rout of Fiorentina on September 9 and has stayed in the eternal city ever since.

Only two Serie A players have been with their club sides longer and they are both Italian — Paolo Maldini and Demetrio Albertini at AC Milan.



Aldair: Wants the decade to end with a bang.

AC Milan's Ayala joins Valencia

Valencia have agreed with AC Milan to sign Argentine international defender Fabian Ayala in a deal worth close to 800 million pesetas (\$4.31 million), a Valencia spokesman said last week.

"The player will join the club in June 2001," said the spokesman.

"He will, however, play this season in Argentina on loan for River Plate."

The spokesman said the Spanish club will also have the option of incorporating the player into their ranks in December if they survive in the Champions League. Valencia were beaten by Real Madrid in the 1999/2000 final.

Ayala still has to agree personal terms with Valencia and pass a medical



Fabian Ayala: Off to Spain.

before the switch is completed.

Ayala joined Milan in the summer of 1998 from Napoli having made his name in Argentina with River Plate.

He was part of the Milan team which won the Italian title in 1999 but struggled to hold down a regular place last season.

The recent arrival of Brazilian defender Roque Junior has further restricted his chances at the San Siro.

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

Marco Tardelli and the Italian Olympic team that he coaches, have been in Melbourne for almost a week and tomorrow night at the MCG it finally all gets under way.

The Olyroos face their moment of truth - an enormous hurdle as the Olympic games kick-off - against Italy in front of 90,000 fans.

Tardelli already has Olympic experience because he was the assistant coach to Cesare Maldini in 1992 at Barcelona. Then the Italian team had some conflicts with the Italian fencing team, in particular with the female members of that team. This time those problems should be avoided as they are not staying at all at the Olympic Village at Homebush Bay.

Tardelli, more than anyone, knows that so much is expected of his team especially since they are defending European Under 21 champions.

At the very least a medal is expected from this team which, as mentioned in this column last week, has a number of Serie A and senior national team stars including: Christian Abbiati in goals, Gennaro Gattuso, Gianluca Zambrotta, Massimo Ambrosini and Roberto Baronio.

Tomorrow night will be very special and it is the very first time ever that Italy play Australia in an official football match.

★ ★ ★

Giovanni Trapattoni was the star of Italy's World Cup qualifier last week in Budapest against Hungary that ended 2-2.

The legendary coach, in his debut on the national bench, was the focus of the Italian media after the game. It seemed that everyone wanted a piece of him.

In fact, if it wasn't for yet another Alex Del Piero error, it could have been a victory for Trapattoni on debut.

Trapattoni was disappointed after the game but masqueraded his disappointment by saying that he would have accepted a draw prior to the game.

The quality of Stefano Fiore in midfield and Francesco Totti as playmaker was very clear.

As a striker, they don't get that much better than Filippo Inzaghi and not only because he scored both the Italian goals.

However, it was the normally reliable Italian defence that didn't work in Budapest with Fabio Cannavaro clearly out of sorts. His defensive colleagues, Mark Iuliano, Paolo Maldini and Alessandro Nesta were marginally better.

Goalkeeper, Francesco Toldo, the Italian hero of the European Championships a few months ago, was fairly reliable as expected.

It was Del Piero and Zambrotta (currently in Australia for the Olympics) that clearly had disappointing nights. Del Piero blamed the bounce of the ball for his error, but the fact remains that in his last two games for Italy his finishing has been very poor.

It was interesting to note the amount of people defending Del Piero after the game including, Trapattoni, Inzaghi and Olympic Games coach, Tardelli who said that he thought that Del Piero had a fairly decent game.

The Hungary match also saw the return in the spotlight of former national coach, Arrigo Sacchi, who after the game had some very interesting analyses.

The former AC Milan mentor, said that Trapattoni had to make up his mind as to what type of team he wanted to field. "You can't be modern yet traditional and attacking and defensive at the same time," he said.

"Italy has always been a fairly defensive team and to abandon that now, would mean upsetting a large portion of the media and the public," continued Sacchi.

"However, the great teams of the past that have captured the public's imagination, including Hungary, Brazil, Holland, Real Madrid, Benfica, Ajax, Liverpool and AC Milan, have always been attacking sides," he concluded.

Interesting indeed, but wasn't he the coach of the AC Milan side that he mentioned? May be a case of 'dining out on past achievements'!

Footnote: SBS on World Soccer, at 4.30 pm on Saturday, will show extensive highlights of the Hungary v Italy game.

Four Serie A sides crash out of Italian Cup

Four Serie A clubs crashed out of the Italian Cup at the first hurdle last week after losing to second division sides.

Bari were held to a 0-0 draw at home by Torino and went out 2-1 on aggregate. Bologna lost 1-0 at home to Serie B's Venezia and slid out 3-2 on aggregate. Perugia lost on the away goals rule to Salernitana and Verona were beaten 4-3 on aggregate by Piacenza after extra time.

Venezia were surprise winners in Bologna after having drawn the home leg 2-2. A goal by Sierra Leone defender Kewullay Conteh in the 67th minute was enough to give the Venice side a third round tie at Parma.

Torino's reward for holding Bari to a

goalless draw is a last 16 clash with AC Milan.

Piacenza, relegated to Serie B at the end of last season, got their winner in the first half of extra time from Paolo Tramezzani. They now face Udinese.

Perugia won their home leg match 2-1 against Salernitana but it failed to see them through.

A fifth minute goal by Vincenzo Chianese earned the southerners a 2-2 draw on aggregate and a place in the third round against Fiorentina.

A Cristiano Lucarelli strike in the 38th minute gave Lecce a 1-0 win at home to Serie B side Cosenza, while Reggina lost 1-0 at home and 3-0 on aggregate to Atalanta Bergamo who scored in the 79th minute through

Christian Zenoni.

Newly promoted Atalanta now play AS Roma. Penalty kicks decided the all Serie A clash between 1997 Cup winners Vicenza and Brescia after the two sides were deadlocked 3-3 on aggregate after regulation and extra time.

Newly signed Czech goalkeeper Pavel Srnec saved a penalty as Brescia won the shoot-out 5-4 to set up a last 16 clash with Juventus.

Napoli face Sampdoria in the remaining tie for the right to take on league and Cup Double winners Lazio in the last 16.

Italy's leading Serie A clubs only enter the competition at the third round, while most of the other first division sides entered at the second round.

Milan and Lazio call for end to Italy player restrictions

AC Milan and Lazio want restrictions on foreign players in Italian soccer lifted with Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani even threatening court action to end the current regulations.

According to Italian rules, Serie A clubs are allowed to register five play-

ers from outside the European Union and only three of those are allowed on the field at any one time.

"These laws about non-EU players need to be changed and I am ready to go to court," said Galliani whose club want to sign Dynamo Kiev's Georgian defender Kakha Kaladze but have already filled their non-EU quota.

Galliani's views were echoed by

Sergio Cragnotti, president of Lazio, which boasts foreign players from Chile to the Czech Republic.

"The regulations on the number of non-EU players are antiquated. With the globalisation of football we can no longer discriminate against certain players," he said.

"We oppose, however, the FIFA task force that has accepted the fact

that players can just leave a club," he said.

Italian Football League president Franco Carraro said Italian clubs would continue to press for football to be considered as a sport, not as a business which has to conform with EU legislation and regulations.



WORLD

ENGLAND

BRADFORD CITY 1 ARSENAL 1

Struggling off their 6-0 rout at the hands of Manchester United, Stuart McCall hammered City into a 10th minute lead after Arsenal defender Martin Keown cleared a corner.

Arsenal's French striker Thierry Henry, who had hit the post in the third minute, collected a through ball from Swede Fredrik Ljungberg and crossed for Ashley Cole to score a 66th minute equaliser, his first goal for the club.



Bradford's Stuart McCall is held aloft by Dan Petrescu.

COVENTRY CITY 0 LEEDS UNITED 0

Leeds lost their 100 percent record with a surprise 2-1 defeat by Manchester City in mid-week and didn't fare much better against Coventry, whose Swedish goalkeeper Magnus Hedman was in inspired form.

Aside from the two points dropped, Leeds also missed a chance to boost morale before their Champions League campaign opens against Barcelona at the Nou Camp.

IPSWICH TOWN 1 ASTON VILLA 2

Villa's Belgian striker Luc Nilis is set to miss the remainder of the season with a suspected leg break after being stretchered off following a third minute collision with Ipswich goalkeeper Richard Wright.

Lee Hendrie put Villa in front with a 28th minute chip shot and Dion Dublin scrambled home his first goal of the season after a second-half corner to ease the pressure on Villa manager John Gregory. Marcus Stewart scored for Ipswich in the 90th minute.

LEICESTER CITY 1 SOUTHAMPTON 0

Gerry Taggart notched Leicester's winner in the 66th minute of a match that achieved maximum effect from the minimum scoreline.

City are currently joint top with Manchester United on 11 points but trail on goal difference after having scored a miserly four league goals all season. Their defence withstood Southampton's best efforts and have conceded just one goal in five matches - and that was a penalty.

LIVERPOOL 3 MAN. CITY 2

Michael Owen needed only 11 minutes to open the scoring - his sixth league goal in five games.

German midfielder Dietmar Hamann hit a second in the 56th minute but City refused to lie down and goals from former FIFA World Player of the Year George Weah - his first for the club - and Kevin Horlock, a penalty, made it 2-2. Hamann crashed in the winner after a long throw-in from fellow German Christian Ziege.

MAN UTD 3 SUNDERLAND 0

David Beckham supplied the cross and Paul Scholes added the glancing header to give United a 14th minute lead.

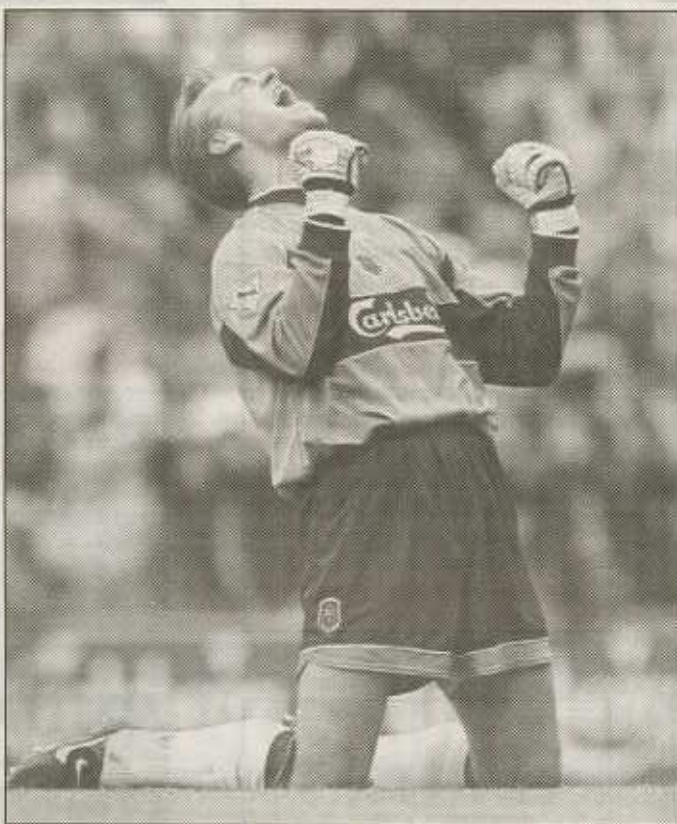
Sunderland held on well but their defence folded in the closing 15 minutes, allowing Teddy Sheringham to score from eight metres, after a pass from Andy Cole, and Scholes to rifle home his second of the day from 20 metres after winger Ryan Giggs had laid the ball on.

MIDDLESBROUGH 1 EVERTON 2

Middlesbrough took a seventh minute lead when Everton defender Steve Watson turned a cross from Boro's Croatian striker Alen Boksic into his own net.

Francis Jeffers bagged the equaliser - his fourth goal in as many games - after collecting a long ball forward. Jeffers topped that with Everton's winner in the 87th minute, lashing the ball home after his first effort was blocked on the line.

The points were welcome after Everton had lost 2-0 leads in both their previous matches.



Liverpool keeper Sander Westerveld falls to his knees after witnessing teammate Dietmar Hamann smash home the winner.

NEWCASTLE UTD 0 CHELSEA 0

A scrappy first half, but better quality in the second of a game with few scoring chances.

Alan Shearer nearly struck for Newcastle after 15 minutes, meeting Daniel Cordone's free-kick with a header that forced a superb full-length save. Chelsea's Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink should have done better with a point-blank header, while Tore Andre Flo only just failed to connect with Mario Melchiot's low raking cross.

Gary Speed then volleyed over for United after a well-worked move.

DERBY 2 CHARLTON 2

Derby County, fine exponents of the art of the comeback this season, were treated to a dose of their own medicine by Charlton Athletic in a spirited 2-2 draw at Pride Park.

The London side fought back from two goals down at half-time thanks to strikes from Malcolm Christie and Simo Valakari however they still grabbed a share of the points.

Charlton's Claus Jensen's pulled one back on 58 minutes before Finnish international Jonatan Johansson equalised just three minutes later.



Abel Xavier (left) and Paul Gascoigne celebrate Francis Jeffers' winner as Everton defeated Middlesbrough 2-1.

MURPHY LAW

By Julian Murphy

Early nomination for pretender of the season - Chelsea. A 4-2 opening day victory over West Ham only laid the foundations for a series of uninspiring performances. There was the unacceptable 2-0 loss at Bradford which was followed by a dull 1-1 draw with Aston Villa.

These two results made last week's game with fellow title aspirants Arsenal very important. A home win over the Gunners would have seen Chelsea back on track.

Unlike their rivals, Chelsea had close to a full squad to choose from so it was a great opportunity to pick up three valuable points.

Despite being the better side for three-quarters of the match, Chelsea allowed Arsenal to snatch a point with two goals in the last fifteen minutes. It was a similar game to the corresponding fixture last season in which Nwankwo Kanu hit a remarkable late hat trick in a rousing 3-2 Arsenal win. This time around the Blues hung on to secure a point but it was definitely a case of two dropped rather than one gained.

No joy over the weekend either when Gianluca Vialli's men traveled to tackle Newcastle at St. James Park. Another pedestrian effort, another draw and it will be the home side who are more disappointed with the 0-0 score line. Nolberto Solano and Keiron Dyer almost managed to conjure up a victory for Newcastle in what was ultimately a listless affair.

It is only very early days but Chelsea's return of six points from five games is worrying for everyone at Stamford Bridge. The London club cannot afford to drop points against lowly opposition or surrender hard earned two goal leads.

Perhaps more unsettling than this early patchy form is manager Vialli's apparent sense of unease with the situation. It hasn't taken long for the Italian to hint that he is feeling the heat as can be seen by his handling of the media. After the Villa game he snapped that some critics believed 'unless we win the league by 25 points we're shit.' On the weekend he admitted that he found it hard to deal with the English football media.

Harmony in the squad could also be a problem especially after the public spat between Vialli and French defender Franck Leboeuf before the season commenced.

If Chelsea are serious about challenging the Manchester United juggernaut they would want to turn things around pretty soon or they may be out of the race by Christmas.

Things are looking a little better for Chelsea's last opponents, Newcastle United. Under the guidance of veteran manager Bobby Robson, the club has managed to transform from relegation candidates to a competitive unit in under a year.

Twelve months ago Newcastle were propping up the Premier League table but before last weekend's draw they were on top. Robson has been rewarded for his effort with this season's first Manager of the Month award.

Perhaps the exciting days of Kevin Keegan's reign are set to return? It was not that long ago that all at St. James Park blubbered en masse when one of their own, Newcastle-born Blackburn player Graeme Fenton, scored two late goals that virtually handed the title to Manchester United.

The Toon Army could have been forgiven for looking forward to more title struggles against Man U. It didn't quite work out that way and they could only watch in despair as their beloved club did its best to return from whence it came in the early 90s, division one.

Player greats Kenny Dalglish and Ruud Gullit both had horror stunts in the dugout and the behaviour of certain club officials seemed to effect both performances and morale. Although it is unlikely that Robson's side will finish in the top six this year, it may not be all that long before St James Park is again the fortress it was in the mid 90s.

1984



April 3
Vol 5 No 158

- * NSL clubs Newcastle and Canberra strike financial troubles
- * NSW Soccer headquarters arrives on the scene at Parklea
- * Jim Hermiston comes out of retirement at the age of 38 to play for QLD in an interstate match against NSW

Other events

- * South Melbourne won the NSL
- * The Olympic Games were held in Los Angeles
- * France win the European C'ships after defeating Belgium 2-0 in the final

1986



February 4
Vol 7 No 231

- * "Sydney Soccer Shame": The state of league grounds described as appalling
- * South Melbourne's Oscar Crino moves to Cyprian first division club Anorthosis
- * Craig Johnston given British citizenship, chances of playing for England enhanced
- * Charlie Yankos moves from Heidelberg Utd to West Adelaide for an Australian record fee of \$30,000

Other events

- * Adelaide City won the NSL
- * Argentina won the World Cup after defeating West Germany 3-2 in the final in Mexico.

1988



June 22
Vol 9 No 342

- * "Farina strikes Gold": Australia's young striker enthusiastic about upcoming Bicentennial Gold Cup tournament
- * Eddie Krncevic signed by Marconi after returning from holidays in Tunisia
- * St. George keeper Mike Gibson scores a spectacular goal as his side defeat Marconi 3-2. Gibson's hail Mary punt kick bounced over opposing keeper Bobby Catlin and skidded into an empty net.

Other events

- * Marconi won the NSL
- * The Dutch won their first major honour winning the European C'ship
- * The Olympic games were held in Seoul, South Korea

1990



September 10
Vol 11 No 446

- * Marconi pay \$55,000 for David Seal and Mark Jones to move from Sydney Croatia.
- * Charlie Yankos voted by schoolkids as the most popular soccer player.
- * Australia defeated by Sth Korea for second time in a week with keeper Robert Zabica the difference between a narrow loss and a flogging.

Other events

- * Sydney Olympic won the NSL
- * Italia 90 was decided by a penalty as Germany defeated Argentina 1-0, exacting revenge for their loss four years earlier

1991



June 11
Vol 12 No 484

- * "Frankie's long wait": Farina's \$5m move from Belgium club FC Brugge to Italian club Bari hanging on results of a medical.
- * In turn FC Brugge offer \$500,000 for Marconi duo Paul Okon and David Seal.
- * Legendary Hungarian Ferenc Puskas decides to coach Sth Melbourne for one more year
- * Ned Zelic stars in Australia's 2-1 win over a Soviet XI in a President Cup Match.

Other events

- * South Melbourne won the NSL
- * Adelaide City's Milan Ivanovic voted player of the year

1992



May 26
Vol 13 No 533

- * "Miracles do happen": Australia qualifies for the 1992 Olympics after a 2-2 draw away against Holland, Ned Zelic scoring the equaliser.
- * David Mitchell pulls out of Socceroo tour of South America after twisting his knee after slipping while running on a wet surface.
- * Adelaide's Hindmarsh stadium gets a \$3m revamp in preparation for the 1993 Youth Championships.

Other events

- * Adelaide City won the NSL
- * The Olympic Games were held in Barcelona, Spain
- * Denmark won the Euro C'ships against all the odds in Sweden

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WEEKLY

1993



November 1
Vol 14 No 635

- * Australia 1 Argentina 1: Historic draw at the SFS in the first leg of a World Cup qualifier.
- * 1993 National league season kicks off
- * Holland end England's hopes of qualifying for USA 94

Other events

- * Marconi won the NSL
- * Australia get as close as ever to World Cup qualification, going down 2-1 to Argentina on aggregate
- * Sydney is awarded the 2000 Olympic games

1996



April 23
Vol 17 No 770

- * AC Milan one win from winning the Scudetto.
- * Australia plays Chile in Santiago
- * Frenchman Eric Cantona voted Footballer of the Year

Other events

- * Melbourne Knights won the NSL
- * The Olympic games are held in Atlanta, USA. The Olyroo's suffer two losses to France and Spain but score a win against Saudi Arabia to bow out in round one. Nigeria wins gold after defeating Brazil 4-3.

1997



November 18
Vol 18 No 852

- * "It's War: Australia vs Iran": both teams had met before in World Cup qualifying campaigns but this meeting was Australia's best chance of qualifying for the finals.
- * Croatia and Yugoslavia secure a World Cup berth, the first World Cup for both teams after the split in the former Yugoslav republic.

Other events

- * Brisbane Strikers win their first NSL title after defeating Sydney United 2-0
- * Australia fail to qualify for the World Cup in four minutes

1998



July 14
Vol 19 No 886

- * France win the World Cup with a 3-0 victory over Brazil in Paris in the final, the win was the first World Cup for the French.
- * Robbie Slater returns and is signed by the league's new club, Northern Spirit.
- * Daniel Allsopp moves to English club side Manchester City.

Other events

- * South Melbourne won the NSL
- * France win the World Cup defeating Brazil 3-0 in the final
- * After a 0-0 draw against Brazil in the group stage of the Confederations Cup, the Brazilians exact revenge with a 6-0 thumping over the Aussies in the final after Mark Viduka is sent off

1999



November 30
Vol 20 No 959

- * "So Close: Australia's Heroic Under 17's": Australia come inches from winning the U/17 World Cup, with world powers Brazil winning 8-7 in a dreaded shoot out after a goalless 120 minutes.
- * Brisbane Strikers coach John Kosmina leads his club to nine consecutive games without defeat, a new club record.
- * Liverpool and Welsh legend Ian Rush prepares for his second match with NSL club Sydney Olympic.

Other events

- * South Melbourne won the NSL
- * Australia reach their first ever World Cup final

2000



June 13
Vol 21 No 987

- * Unbelievable finish to the NSL championship for Wollongong
- * Australia entertain Paraguay in a three match series right here at home
- * Euro 2000 kicks off in Holland and Belgium

Other events

- * Wollongong won their first NSL title in front of over 43 000 fans in Perth
- * Sydney host the 2000 Olympic games
- * France win the European championships over Italy with a golden goal
- * The expected Millenium bug doesn't eventuate.



Kanu defends decision to miss Olympics

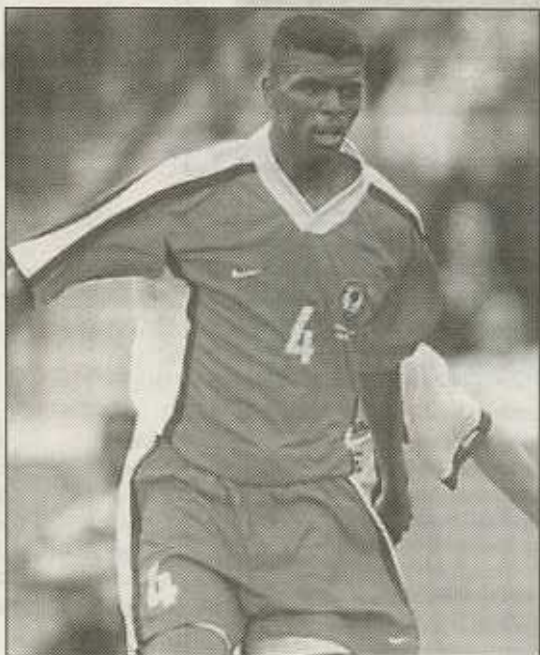
Arsenal's Nigerian international striker Nwankwo Kanu last week defended his decision to put club before country and miss the Sydney Olympics.

Kanu was part of the Nigeria side that won gold in Atlanta four years ago but he has asked not to play in the Games starting on September 15 — a decision that has attracted criticism in his homeland.

In a statement issued, Kanu said: "All of my life I have given 100 percent to the cause of helping Nigerian football. Today I find myself in a unique dilemma.

"Of course I would be proud to represent Nigeria at the Sydney Olympics, but I also owe a debt to my club Arsenal who pay my wages, and indeed (coach) Arsene Wenger who has resurrected my career.

"There are also other per-



Nwankwo Kanu: Defending himself.

sonal reasons why I cannot travel to Sydney at that time. "If I play all the Olympic and World Cup qualifying games this season I will miss

10 games for Arsenal, including three Champions League games. I owe it to the Arsenal fans to help the team at this vital time."

Kanu, 24, was named as one of three permitted overage players in the Nigerian team.

"The Olympics is predominantly a tournament for under-23s and the FIFA directive regarding overage players is that the player should not be selected against his will," Kanu said.

Kanu was reacting to comments by John Fashanu, the former Wimbledon striker who is now ambassador for Nigerian sport. Fashanu was reported as saying that Kanu should not return home for 20 years if he chose not to play for Nigeria in Sydney.

Kanu's statement added: "It should be remembered that in his playing days he (Fashanu) chose to desert Nigeria and play for England instead. He has no right to criticise me when I have given so much to the country I love."

Tunisia to host African Nations Cup in 2004

Tunisia will host the African Nations Cup finals in 2004, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) announced last week.

Tunisia polled nine of the 13 votes at a CAF executive committee meeting in Cairo. Zimbabwe won three votes and a joint bid from Zambia and Malawi got one, the CAF said.

Voting was carried out after the three candidates made presentations to the committee.

Tunisia will be hosting the finals for the

third time, after 1965 and 1994. None of the other candidates have ever hosted the biennial continental championship.

Tunisia had been favourites to win, having the best bid in terms of stadia, hotel facilities and infrastructure.

Tunisian football has meanwhile risen to prominence in the last decade, with the national side reaching the 1998 World Cup finals and its clubs dominating the three African competitions.

The 2002 African Nations Cup finals will be held in Mali.

ARSENAL SIGN LATVIAN

Premier League side Arsenal signed Latvian international defender Igor Stepanovs from Skonto Riga last week for an undisclosed fee, Arsenal's official Web site said.

Stepanovs, 24, has played 37 times for his country and as an established international

should have no problems securing a work permit for Britain.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said: "We have signed Igor to strengthen our defensive unit. He is an experienced international and a very competent defender who will prove to be a great asset to the club."

All eyes on Figo as symbol of Spanish club rivalry

All eyes were on Luis Figo, the world's most expensive player, when Spain's league season kicked off last weekend with his new club Real Madrid and former side Barcelona promising a more committed fight for the title.

The big two in Spain struggled throughout last season for any kind of consistency on the home front as the distractions of the Champions League left the path clear for Deportivo La Coruna to win their first title.

Deportivo are likely to find the demands of their European campaign too great to repeat their title win while Valencia look short of strength in depth. The rest are a long way behind.

That should leave Real and Barca, who between them



Luis Figo: All eyes on him.

have won the title in 14 of the last 16 years, to reassert their superiority in la liga — with the \$96 million defection of Figo from the Nou Camp to the Bernabeu sure to spice up the battle.

Both sides will start the season with Spanish coaches at the helm, following the depar-

ture of John Toshack at Real midway through last season and Louis van Gaal's exit through the back door at Barca.

Vicente del Bosque has promised a new start at Real after being accused of playing too defensively in the league last term, when they finished fifth.

Real's 3-0 victory over Valencia in the Champions League final last May made it two European Cup wins in the last three seasons but they have not won the league since 1997 and their players clearly believe it's about time they got their act together at home in Spain.

"The league is the one we really want to win this season," said defender Roberto Carlos. "Real Madrid fans

should enjoy our matches every Sunday."

The controversial signing of Figo made all the headlines but Real have invested a further \$50 million in Flavio Conceicao, Claude Makelele and Pedro Munitis, with Fernando Redondo sold to AC Milan and striker Nicolas Anelka now back in Paris.

A 4-4-2 line-up will allow del Bosque to play Figo and Munitis as wingers, with Brazilian Flavio and Frenchman Makelele directing traffic from the centre.

With Raul and Fernando Morientes prowling up front their miserable scoring record of 58 goals last season should improve.

Figo didn't disappoint scoring the winner just minutes from time for his new club.

CELTIC CHIEF QUIT

Scottish Premier League club Celtic last week announced that chief executive Allan MacDonald had resigned and would leave the club when a successor had been appointed.

MacDonald took over in March last year and enjoyed some initial success. He settled a conflict with the players over bonuses and re-signed gifted striker Henrik Larsson.

However, he will be best remembered as the driving force

behind the return of Kenny Dalglish to the club and the subsequent appointment of former England international John Barnes as team manager.

The Dalglish-Barnes partnership oversaw a grim season as Celtic crashed out of the Scottish Cup to first division Inverness Caledonian Thistle and Glasgow rivals Rangers won their 11th title in 12 years.

The club's fortunes have improved this season with new manager Martin O'Neill leading the team to a

good start to the new campaign and a morale boosting 6-2 victory over Rangers.

Off the field MacDonald has been one of the main advocates of plans for the club to participate in a league outside Scotland with other major clubs from the smaller European nations.

He has agreed to continue to help the club in negotiations on the plans "until a constructive outcome has been achieved".

Kewell out for at least three months

Leeds United's Australian forward Harry Kewell is set to undergo surgery on his Achilles tendon and will be out of action for at least three months, the club said last week.

The 21-year-old, who scored 17 goals for the English Premier League side last season, had already ruled out representing his country at the Sydney Olympics.

His absence will be a big blow to Leeds boss David O'Leary as his team embark on their Champions League campaign with games against Barcelona, AC Milan and Besiktas.



Harry Kewell: Surgery.

Referee accuses FA of discrimination

An Asian football referee has claimed he was racially discriminated against by the Football Association (FA).

Wolverhampton accountant Gurnam Singh, 46, who has taken the FA to the employment tribunal in Birmingham, said he was not promoted to officiate top league matches or internationals because of his race, according to *The Guardian* newspaper.

However the Football Association has said Singh was removed from the national register because his marks were consistently low over several seasons.

The Guardian said Singh claimed he was dismissed despite having consistently higher marks than some of his white colleagues.

Referees are graded out of 10 during each match by clubs and their performances are then verified by an independent assessor.

According to Singh's lawyer, Manjit Panesar, Singh averaged 7.31 marks out of 10 for the 1994-95 season, the newspaper said.

Panesar said that despite this high ranking Singh was given significantly fewer Division One games to officiate.

At the end of the 1994-95 season a

discussion was held to determine which referees would handle Premiership matches, he said, but one national review body member for referees was alleged to have said of Singh: "We don't want people like him in the Premier League," Panesar said.

Because of his non-promotion, Singh was unable to apply to FIFA — the world governing body — to officiate international matches.

The FA removed Singh from the register last May. It is contesting the hearing, as are the Football League, the Premier League and the national review body. The hearing continues.

FIFA World Rankings

(Valid until October 11)



1 Brazil	67= Lithuania	137 Luxemburg
2 France	70 Bolivia	138 Grenada
3 Argentina	71 Kuwait	139 Lesotho
4 Czech Republic	72 Uzbekistan	140 Rwanda
5 Spain	73 China PR	141 Tanzania
6 Italy	74 Bosnia-Herzegovina	142 Ethiopia
7 Portugal	75 Burkina Faso	143= Bangladesh
8 Yugoslavia	76 Cuba	143= Benin
9 Germany	77 Estonia	143= Liechtenstein
10 Netherlands	78 Guinea	146 St Kitts & Nevis
11= Norway	79 Armenia	147 Korea DPR
11= Romania	80 Algeria	148 Antigua & Barbuda
13 Mexico	81 Iraq	149 Andorra
14 England	82 Namibia	150 Bermuda
15 Croatia	83= Gabon	152 Gambia
16 Paraguay	83= Haiti	153 Maldives
17 Colombia	83= Senegal	154 Sri Lanka
18 Denmark	86 Latvia	155 Dominican Republic
19 United States	87 FYR Macedonia	156 Cape Verde Islands
20 Chile	88 Albania	157 Mauritania
21 Sweden	89 Mali	158 Yemen
22= Scotland	90 Togo	159 Cayman Islands
22= South Africa	91= New Zealand	160 Dominica
24 Russia	91= Qatar	161 Chinese Taipei
25 Belgium	93 Congo	162 Nepal
26= Morocco	94 El Salvador	163 Chad
26= Tunisia	95 Liberia	164 Eritrea
28 Slovakia	96 Northern Ireland	165 Surinam
29 Trinidad & Tobago	97 Moldova	166 Laos
30 Turkey	98 Syria	167 San Marino
31 Egypt	99 Barbados	168 Vanuatu
32 Uruguay	100 Belarus	169 Palestine
33 Greece	101 Uganda	170 Cook Islands
34 Cameroon	102 Indonesia	171 British Virgin Is.
35 Israel	103 Jordan	172 Kyrgyzstan
36= Poland	104 Malaysia	173= Netherlands Antilles
36= Slovenia	105= Mozambique	173= Samoa
38= Ireland Republic	105= Singapore	175 Guinea-Bissau
38= Jamaica	105= Venezuela	176 Central African Rep.
38= Peru	108= Kenya	177 Niger
38= Ukraine	108= Oman	178 Macao
42= Austria	110 Lebanon	179 Sao Tome e Principe
42= Korea Republic	111 Vietnam SR	180= Bahamas
44 Iran	112 Azerbaijan	180= Cambodia
45 Zambia	113 Wales	182 Guyana
46 Honduras	114 Malawi	183 Philippines
47 Finland	115 Madagascar	184 Tonga
48 Cote d'Ivoire	116 India	185 Aruba
49 Hungary	117 Faroe Islands	186 Belize
50 Japan	118 Kazakhstan	187 Equatorial Guinea
51 Angola	118 Mauritius	188 Seychelles
52 Iceland	120 Malta	189 Pakistan
53= Ghana	121 Turkmenistan	190 Nicaragua
53= Nigeria	122 Panama	191 Papua New Guinea
55 Costa Rica	123 Libya	192 Djibouti
56 Bulgaria	124 St Vincent/Gr	193 Brunei Darussalam
57 Thailand	125 Hong Kong	194 Puerto Rico
58= Canada	126 Sierra Leone	195 Somalia
58= UAE	127 Sudan	196 US Virgin Islands
60= Ecuador	128 Myanmar	197 Mongolia
60= Switzerland	129 St Lucia	198 Anguilla
62 Guatemala	130 Tahiti	199 Turks and Caicos Is
63 Saudi Arabia	131 Solomon Islands	200 Bhutan
64 Zimbabwe	132 Bahrain	201 Guam
65 Cyprus	133 Swaziland	202 Montserrat
66 Congo DR	134 Burundi	203 American Samoa
67= AUSTRALIA	135 Tajikistan	
67= Georgia	136 Fiji	

Note: Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet do not appear in the table.

McManaman gets standing ovation

Real Madrid's Steve McManaman received a standing ovation from the crowd and was cheered every time he touched the ball as he was finally recalled to the team in a pre-season friendly.

The England international, who has not played for Real since scoring in the Champions League final victory over Valencia in May, came on as a second-half substitute in the 2-0 win over Santos at the Bernabeu.

The midfielder has fallen out of favour with coach Vicente del Bosque since the record signing of

Luis Figo from Barcelona in the summer.

But McManaman's insistence that he wants to stay and fight for a place at the club, despite being told he should look for a transfer, has won him hero status among the fans — a fact recognised by del Bosque.

"Macca is a player who is loved by the fans," said Del Bosque, "so the reception he received strikes me as perfect."

"I'm not in confrontation with him and it's great that the crowd love him."



Steve McManaman: The fans love him.

BEST BACK ON BOOZE



George Best: On the binge again.

Former star George Best, who pledged in April never to drink alcohol again after being hospitalised for liver failure, has fallen off the wagon with a thud, *The Sun* newspaper said.

"No one seems able to stop him," a close friend told the tabloid. "He knows if he carries on drinking he's a

dead man."

Best, 54, whose dazzling career with Manchester United was cut short in part by his fondness for drink, already lapsed in his vow with a one-night session in July.

The Sun said his 27-year-old wife Alex was in tears as she rushed from bar to bar in west London to try to find him. He was also in two pubs last week, it added.

But Best, who was treated in hospital in March, insisted

his lunchtime drinks didn't pack a punch.

"Yes, I was in a couple of pubs today (Wednesday)," *The Sun* quoted him as saying. "But I was only drinking Coke."

Bookies back Brazil, Argentina to win 2002 World Cup

Brazil and Argentina are favourites to win the 2002 World Cup, ahead of world and European champions France, according to bookmakers William Hill.

Brazil bounced back after a poor series of results to trounce Bolivia 5-0 in a South American World Cup

qualifier in Rio de Janeiro last weekend, while Argentina beat Peru 2-1 in Lima.

Brazil, who won the trophy for the fourth time in 1994 and who were runners-up in 1998, were quoted at 5-1 with Argentina, winners in 1978 and 1986.

France, are rated at 6-1, ahead of Italy

(9-1), the Netherlands (11-1) and Spain (12-1).

They are followed by three nations on 20-1 — England, Germany and Nigeria.

Wales, who opened their qualifying campaign with a 2-1 defeat in Belarus, are the biggest outsiders — quoted at 1,000-1.

"Sick" Real Madrid in financial crisis, admits president

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez admitted last week that the club was in a grave financial crisis as he revealed the European champions were some \$250 million in debt as of June 30.

"The situation is truly bad," Perez said in a news conference to reveal the results of an audit of the club.

"We have a grave sickness and if we don't take steps now it will end very badly."

Perez said the club was in urgent need of 60,000 million pesetas (\$324.1 million) and that the easiest way of acquiring such a sum would be to convert the club into a limited company.

He appeared to rule out taking such a controversial step, however, as he promised to fight to preserve Real's status

as a club owned by its members.

"It's not something that the members would consider and I stood as a candidate for the elections to ensure it wouldn't happen," he said.

He added that the sale of the club's training ground in the north of the city could also ease the financial situation.

"I don't want to speak with bitterness but it is necessary to take measures to get out of this crisis situation," Perez said. "Survival day to day is a miracle."

"But I want to send a message of optimism. We'll go through two difficult years until the club is restructured and in the third year I hope we'll have stability."

Perez, who took over the club presidency on July 17 this year, has since authorised a \$100 million net spending spree on players which will presumably have added

to the club's financial problems.

The bulk of that money went on the \$96 million signing of Luis Figo from Barcelona, a decision Perez was at pains to justify.

"It would give a message of little hope if we sold players and I prefer to fix the house while we're living in it," he said. "Figo cost the same as the sales of (Nicolas) Anelka and (Elvir) Baljic."

Perez also announced, as had been widely expected, that Jorge Valdano would take over as the club's sporting director.

"He will bring to us not only his experience but also his business ability."

"He will be in charge of all sporting matters and also be the spokesman for the club."



Blair plans soccer drive at UN summit



Tony Blair: Soccer drive.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair will try to rally leaders of Europe's top soccer nations to reverse "damaging" European Commission plans to overhaul the system of player transfers, officials said last week.

His official spokesman, Alastair Campbell, said Blair wanted a review of the proposals, which he said threatened grass roots across the continent.

"(He is) trying to get the Commission and FIFA ... to look again at something that will cause damage to smaller clubs in particular and smaller leagues throughout Europe," he told reporters.

"If you go to some smaller European countries, they are worried for the future of any proper

infrastructure of professional football as a result of this," Campbell added.

FIFA, the international soccer body, said last week that it planned to abolish transfer fees for players over 24 in a move designed to avoid the dismantling of the entire transfer system threatened by the European Commission.

The system has been challenged as a breach of European laws on freedom of movement.

Campbell said Blair would try to generate enough support among other EU leaders for a change to allow the European Commission to take into account the special circumstances of sports without exempting the field altogether from its regulations.

Gaddafi's son returns to head federation

The mad son of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi revoked his resignation as president of his country's soccer federation last week.

"As president of the Libyan soccer federation I would spare no effort or self-sacrifice so as to show that we are stronger than before and to attract the attention of the world media to Libyan soccer talents," said Al-Saadi Gaddafi.

He was addressing Libyan supporters gathered to celebrate his return to lead the federation after his sudden resignation late in August. His speech was broadcast by state-run radio monitored in Tunis.

There has been no official explanation for his decision to resign. The radio said 26-year-old Al-Saadi had heeded soccer fans who urged him to back down on his resignation and continue to

serve the soccer cause as a "revolutionary duty".

Al-Saadi has long harbored hopes of emerging as the best player in Africa.

Trained by disgraced Olympic sprinter Ben Johnson, Al-Saadi captains the national team. He is credited with lifting his father's ban on soccer in the early 1980s.

FIFA confirm 2002 World Cup final in Yokohama

World champions France will kick off the defence of their crown in Seoul on May 31 and the final of the 2002 World Cup will be staged in Yokohama on June 30, FIFA confirmed last week.

The 64 matches in the competition will be split evenly between South Korea and Japan with 10 venues in each country.

In Korea they are Busan, Daegu, Incheon, Gwangju, Daejeon, Ulsan, Suwon, Jeonju and Seogwipo. In Japan matches will be played in Yokohama, Sapporo, Miyagi, Niigata, Ibaraki, Saitama, Shizuoka, Osaka, Kobe and Oita.

Three kick-off times will be used throughout the tournament, 3.30pm, 6pm and 8.30pm (local time).

With the exception of June 2 (and the days on which the final group matches are played), no more than three matches will be played on any one day.

The kick-offs on June 2 have been timed so that the afternoon matches will be played at 2.30pm in Saitama (Japan) and 4.30pm in Busan (South Korea) with the evening matches at

6.30pm in Ibaraki (Japan) and 8.30pm in Gwangju (South Korea).

South Korea will play their first match on June 4 in Busan followed by fixtures in Daegu (June 10) and Incheon (June 14).

Co-hosts Japan will also start on June 4 in Saitama before games in Yokohama (June 9) and Osaka (June 14).

Colombia's Asprilla sought on gun charge

Colombian authorities last week ordered the arrest of soccer star Faustino Asprilla after he allegedly opened fire with a handgun during a weekend drinking spree.

A statement from the public prosecutor's office said Asprilla, who is preparing to transfer to Saudi Arabian side Al-Nassr after a see-saw career with Newcastle, Parma and Palmeiras of Brazil, was alleged to have fired three shots into the air over his hometown of Tulua in southwest Colombia last week.

The 30-year-old striker, whose fondness for drink has landed him in trouble in the past, was "apparently in a state of drunkenness" when

the incident occurred, the statement said.

The prosecutor's office said Asprilla's arrest had been ordered because he had no permit to carry the .38 calibre pistol.

The illegal weapons charge, which could result in a \$450 fine, echoed an incident in 1995 when Asprilla grabbed headlines by pumping several pistol rounds into the air outside a hotel disco in the Caribbean resort of Cartagena.

Asprilla, who played for Colombia's national team during the last two World Cup tournaments in the United States and France, abruptly quit the team last March.



Faustino Asprilla



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Peace breaks out in European transfer dispute

Peace broke out last week between European soccer's ruling bodies and the European Commission as the two sides said they were willing to work towards a compromise on new transfer rules.

Representatives of UEFA and five leading European football leagues told the Commission they would begin work next week on detailed proposals to overhaul the transfer system and would table firm proposals by the end of October.

The announcement marks real progress in long and acrimonious talks between soccer's leaders and the Commission, which has threatened to outlaw the current system, arguing that it breaks European rules on fair competition and workers' mobility.

"There's a genuine will to work together towards a new system and get a result as soon as possible," EU Sports Commissioner Viviane Reding told reporters.

"They have asked for some time - not to hold things up but because they want time to work out specific proposals that would affect the whole



Lennart Johansson:
UEFA President.

football world," she said, adding that "the football family" would have until the end of October to present firm proposals.

There had been suggestions that the Commission wanted something solid by mid-September.

UEFA will host a first meeting of the working group to draw up the plans this week. It will bring together UEFA, FIFA, football leagues and associations and players' unions.

Last week, FIFA announced it was prepared to revolutionise the transfer system to prevent the Commission declaring it illegal.

It proposed the free movement of players over the age of 24 and the end of transfers for under 18-year-olds but said clubs should be able to seek compensation for the transfer of players aged between 18 and 24.

While pleased that FIFA and UEFA were prepared to show flexibility, the Commission's immediate response last week had been cautious.

UEFA Secretary General Marcus Stuber said the football authorities must grab the opportunity offered to them.

"We have to arrive at a solution by this deadline," Stuber said. "Not necessarily the definitive solution but at least something to go on."

Spanish League general secretary Pedro Tomas said the leagues too were happy they were now fully involved in the process.

"We now know exactly what the situation is and that has really allayed our fears. This is the message we'll be relaying to our clubs," he told the same media briefing.

Earlier, Reding accused the media and football authorities of misrepresenting the Commission's policy on the issue.

"Contrary to what has been said in the press, the Commission in no way intends to abolish the transfer system, nor to create a position which would allow a player unilaterally to renege on a contract," Reding told the European Parliament.

"Compensation is justified when a player terminates his contract with one club to move to another.

To avoid distorting championships, the Commission is clearly ready to accept rules which would mean that transfers could only take place within a given period of time," she added.

The Commission was also keen to ensure that clubs training youngsters got some remuneration when the players moved on to bigger clubs, she said.

She said the current system was not only illegal but had failed to guarantee revenue for clubs in the lower leagues.

"It has also not prevented the over-commercialisation of sport and the widening of the gap between rich and poor clubs," Reding told parliament deputies.



Arsene Wenger: Likely to stay.

Wenger hints at extending stay as Arsenal manager

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said last week that he might extend his contract at Highbury when it expires in 2002.

Japan want the Frenchman to coach their national team in the 2002 World Cup and beyond but Arsenal directors have been trying to persuade Wenger to stay on at the English Premier

League club.

Wenger was quoted on soccer website *onefootball.com* as saying: "I am very happy at Arsenal at the moment."

"I am pleased to hear that the directors want me to stay on as well and I don't see why we can't find an agreement soon."

Wembley Stadium redevelopment hits new snag

The redevelopment of Wembley Stadium (right) with its famous twin towers has been thrown into confusion by the ditching of construction company Bovis Multiplex.

The famous stadium, opened in 1923, is due to be bulldozed after England's World Cup qualifier against Germany on October 7, making way for a 320 million pound (\$800m) venue.

But a disagreement over the cost of the scheme means that Wembley National Stadium (WNS) is now looking for a new contractor to

carry out the project. Bovis Multiplex insist the work could not be completed for less than 340 million

(\$850m) with WNS setting a limit of 320 million.

"We submitted an offer as preferred contractor. The



Wembley Stadium sees more problems.

client decided not to accept it and talks are over," said a Bovis spokesman.

Chris Palmer, communications director of WNS, said discussions were taking place with other contractors and a solution was expected in the next few weeks.

"We were rather more optimistic in our costing than them (Bovis) so we decided to go our separate ways," he said.

"This will not effect the scheduled completion date of 2003 although we are not in a position to say whether it will be ready in time for the FA Cup final of that year."

TV GUIDE

* All times are Australian Eastern Standard Summer Time

TUESDAY SEPT 12
English Premier League
Tottenham vs West Ham
(Replay of morning match)
Fox Sports
3pm - 5pm

Futbol Mundial
SBS TV
4pm - 4.30pm

English Premier League
Tottenham vs West Ham
Fox Sports
11pm - 1am

UEFA Champions League
Sporting Lisbon vs Real Madrid (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
5.30am - 7.45am
(Wednesday Morning)

WEDNESDAY SEPT 13
English Charity Shield
Man Utd vs Chelsea
Fox Sports
3pm - 5pm

UEFA Champions League
Valencia vs Olympiakos
Optus (ESPN)
6pm - 8pm

Inside Soccer
Fox Sports
7.30pm - 9pm

Olympic Games Soccer
Australia vs Italy (M) (LIVE)
Channel Seven
8pm - 10pm

Olympic Games Soccer
Australia vs Germany (F)
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
10pm - 12am

Olympic Games Soccer
Australia vs Italy (M)
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
12am - 2am
(Thursday Morning)

Olympic Games Soccer
Sweden vs Brazil (W)
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
2am - 4am
(Thursday Morning)

Olympic Games Soccer
USA vs Czech Rep (M)
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
4am - 6am
(Thursday Morning)

UEFA Champions League
Barcelona vs Leeds United (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
5.30am - 7.45am
(Thursday Morning)

THURSDAY SEPT 14
GOL ESPN Football Extra
(LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
10am - 10.30am

English FA Cup 2000
Aston Villa vs Chelsea
Fox Sports
3pm - 5pm

Olympic Games Soccer
USA vs Norway (W) (LIVE)
Optus (C7 Sport 12)

5.30pm - 7.30pm
Major League Soccer
Quarterfinal No. 1 (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
6pm - 8pm

Olympic Games Soccer
Brazil vs Slovakia (M) (LIVE)
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
8pm - 10pm

Olympic Games Soccer
Korea vs Spain (M)
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
10pm - 12am

UEFA Champions League
Barcelona vs Leeds
SBS TV
10.30pm - 12.30pm

FRIDAY SEPT 15
Olympic Games Soccer
Nigeria vs Honduras (M)
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
7pm - 9pm

Olympic Games Soccer
Today's Best Match (W)
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
9pm - 11pm

Olympic Games Soccer
Morocco vs Chile (M)
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
3am - 5am
(Saturday Morning)



SATURDAY SEPT 16
GOL ESPN Football Extra
Optus (ESPN)
10am - 10.30am

Inside Soccer
Fox Sports
11.30am - 1pm

Spanish Primera Liga
Opening Game 2000/01 season
Teams TBA
Fox Sports
1pm - 3pm

FIFA TV
ABC TV
1.30pm - 2pm

UEFA Champions League
SBS TV
3.30pm - 4.30pm

World Soccer
SBS TV
4.30pm - 5.30pm

English Premier League
Preview
Fox Sports 2
5pm - 5.30pm

English Premier League
SBS TV
5.30pm - 6.30pm

Olympic Games Soccer
Australia vs Germany (F) (LIVE)

Optus & Foxtel
C7 Olympics
(Olympic special only)
5.30pm - 7.30pm

Olympic Games Soccer
Australia vs Nigeria (M) (LIVE)

Optus & Foxtel
C7 Olympics
(Olympic special only)
8pm - 10pm

Olympic Games Soccer
Italy vs Honduras (M)
Optus & Foxtel
C7 Games
(Olympic special only)
10pm - 12pm

English Premier League
Teams TBA (LIVE)
Fox Sports
12.55am - 3am
(Sunday Morning)

Scottish Premier League
Teams TBA (LIVE)
12.55am - 3am
(Sunday Morning)

SUNDAY SEPT 17
English Premier League
Replay overnight match
Fox Sports 2
3pm - 5pm

Olympic Games Soccer
USA vs China (W) (LIVE)
Optus & Foxtel
C7 Games
(Olympic special only)
5.30pm - 7.30pm

Olympic Games Soccer
Brazil vs Russia (M) (LIVE)
Optus & Foxtel
C7 Games
(Olympic special only)
8pm - 10pm

Scottish Premier League
Rangers vs Hearts (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
12.55am - 3am
(Monday Morning)

English Premier League
Man City vs Middlesbrough (LIVE)
Fox Sports
1am - 4.30am
(Monday Morning)

MONDAY SEPT 18
English Premier League
Man City vs Middlesbrough
Fox Sports
1pm - 3pm

English Premier League
Review
Fox Sports
5pm - 6pm

English Premier League
Review
SBS TV
7.30pm - 8.30pm

English Premier League
Man City vs Middlesbrough
Fox Sports
8.30pm - 10.30pm



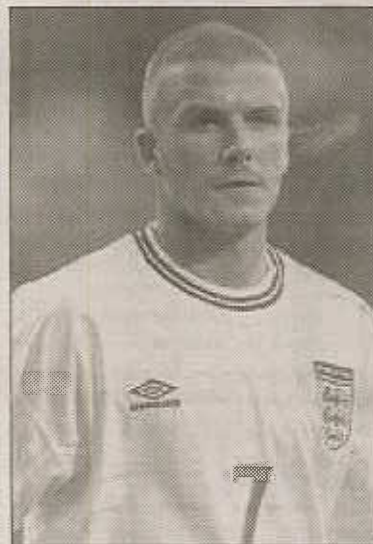
England boss in two minds about Beckham's Role

SERVING MR SPICE

Inspiring David Causes pleasant heartache for Keegan



David Beckham: Centre or right? That is the question.



David Beckham: Pleasant headache for Keegan.

Kevin Keegan will draw much encouragement from England's recent stubborn performance in Paris but he knows that the David Beckham puzzle remains unsolved.

The 25-year-old Manchester United midfielder should be one of England's most influential figures in the coming World Cup campaign.

But Keegan still can't be sure whether his influence is best exerted in his familiar position on the right flank or in the contentious playmaker role in the heart of midfield.

England haven't had an authentic midfielder since Paul Gascoigne's impressive period, and the poise, pomp and passing of a player like Zinedine Zidane simply reminds us of what we are missing.

Keegan, a coach who has always encouraged the free spirits in his teams, would clearly like to employ the vision and accuracy of Beckham's passing in a central midfield role when England begin their World Cup qualifying programme against Germany at Wembley on 7 October.

But can Beckham do it? Keegan gave him the freedom to run the game for England in Paris in the hope that he would prove conclusively that he could.

He hardly put a foot wrong, but his contribution in England's 1-1 draw was functional rather than inspired.

Wide on the right, he can be an inspiring figure and has shown himself to be one of the modern game's leading exponents of that role.

But, using him as a playmaker in the centre of midfield remains unproven.

With just a month to go before England play Germany, Keegan was hoping that Beckham's performance against the likes of

Zidane and Emmanuel Petit would confirm his automatic elevation to midfield creator-in-chief.

Beckham made a full and positive contribution to England's dogged recovery against the world and European champions but, failed to provide Keegan with the evidence he was seeking as he plots England's World Cup campaign.

No one could question his commitment to the cause and, at a time when France threatened to capitalise on Petit's goal and overrun England, he was at his most defiant. In terms of spirit and resilience he ranks alongside his Old Trafford predecessor Bryan Robson but, as an inventive midfielder player capable of changing the shape of a game, he is still an apprentice.

Even so, Keegan may choose him as the midfielder creator against Germany largely because there is no one else to do the job, and the re-emergence of Darren Anderton solves the problem of replacing him on the right flank.

There's no doubt in my mind that Beckham and Anderton were pivotal figures in the improvement in passing and mobility - two factors conspicuously absent from England's Euro 2000 portfolio.

Keegan wanted better passing, and he got it, though when the fancy took them, the French were still able to retain possession with an accomplished ease that seems beyond England.

Beckham's passing range is unrivalled but, in his central role against the French his United team-mate Andy Cole was often the only realistic target for his long forward passes.

The inclination would be to push another striker - obviously Michael Owen - up along-

side Cole to capitalise on Beckham's passing.

Against the French, Paul Scholes, playing just behind Cole and one of England's best competitors, was often too close to Beckham and almost always immediately in front of him.

This denied Beckham the space to run into with the ball if, that is, it ever occurred to him to carry the ball forward.

Unlike Gascoigne or Zidane, Beckham seems unwilling or unable to run at defenders with the ball which may partly explain why he has scored just one goal for England in 35 appearances.

'I thought he did okay in that role,' said Keegan somewhat grudgingly.

'You have to remember that it's really hard work in there.'

'He's got a fantastic engine and attitude. He can only get better in that position, but he requires a run in there.'

And that, of course, is the crux of the matter. Can Keegan afford to lose the quality of his crossing from the right and give him time to adapt to a central role while England try to qualify for the World Cup?

He deserves another chance in the middle, for sure, but I suspect that the Germans would actually prefer him playing against them in midfield than out on the right flank.

They remember Bayern Munich mastering Beckham when he was given a rare outing in central midfield in the 1999 Champions League Final.

United won 2-1 but Beckham, forced into the middle by injuries to Roy Keane and Paul Scholes, had an undistinguished match.

No one knows the secrets of Beckham's game better than Sir Alex Ferguson and I'm sure that if he believed him to be more effective

in a central midfield role that's where he would play regularly for United.

As we saw against France Keegan has no qualms about playing men out of position but this can be a flawed policy unless, of course, a situation is forced on a coach by injury.

In Keegan's case, his continuing problem is a shortage of quality English-born players which will make him all the more grateful that, in Owen, he has a natural predator to replace Alan Shearer.

Owen, irked at his omission from the starting line up, scored a classic finisher's goal four minutes from time. He played for just 13 minutes and Keegan will omit him from the team to play Germany at his peril.

'I gave him my reasons for leaving him out and he gave me the perfect answer,' said Keegan.

After the disappointment of Euro 2000, this was a positive step in the right direction with Nicky Barmby, Keiron Dyer and Gareth Barry joining Anderton and Cole in staking claims for places in Keegan's starting line-up against Germany, or Finland four days later.

Steve Gerrard, Emile Heskey and, more importantly, Chelsea's Graeme Le Saux may be fit to return for the two games that will set the tone for England's qualifying campaign.

Keegan's scout Dave Sexton watched the Germans open their qualifying programme with a 2-0 win over Greece in Hamburg.

'We might have some tough away games ahead of us,' said Keegan. 'But I don't think we'll meet another team of France's quality.'

'We've learned some lessons from Euro 2000, but we shouldn't get carried away. We regained some self belief. This week has been prime time for us.'



PAUL SCHOLES LOVES HIS FILL-IN JOB

It has taken Kevin Keegan 18 months to accept the evidence of the last decade of English football. But in finally giving Paul Scholes the opportunity to play in the hole behind a lone striker, Keegan may have gone back to signpost a brighter future.

For all the fixation on playing with two men up, England's best teams of recent vintage have featured split strikers.

Gary Lineker would never have scored 48 goals if he had not had Peter Beardsley as his foil, buzzing deep, foraging and fetching, while Alan Shearer was at his most effective when Teddy Sheringham dropped off the front to create space.

Last summer, Keegan's inability to break free of the two-up mindset was costly. The focus on Shearer's aerial power meant England were one-dimensional in any event, but

whether he played alongside Michael Owen or Emile Heskey, the strikers were too frequently isolated.

It was a situation crying out for a change in approach, witnessed when Scholes moved into a more advanced role after Steven Gerrard replaced Owen against Germany. Briefly — it only lasted 11 minutes before a leg-weary Scholes came off, England were able to dictate the pace of the game.

Yet, Keegan could not bring himself to take the step of opting for a one-plus-one strikeforce, conceding that he had lacked the belief to do so.

If he was looking for proof that he should have moved earlier, it came with Scholes' display against world and European champions France.

Freed from the necessity of filling defensive space in midfield, and



Paul Scholes: Destructive force in a deeper role.

given the opportunity to drift into areas left unattended, the Manchester United man revelled in the possibilities of his new role.

Scholes is not a replica of Beardsley, and certainly not of Sheringham, but he represents the natural inheritor of their tradition, and instantly makes England look a more cohesive unit.

That it was Andy Cole, rather than Owen, who was the spearhead was irrelevant.

What mattered was that England, at last, appeared attuned to the demands of international football going forward, asking questions to which the French could only provide some of the answers.

Scholes was at the heart of most of England's better moments, probing and linking up with Nick Barmby and Cole, while also demonstrating why he has 10 goals

in 28 England games by stealing forward beyond Cole when the moment came.

Owen admitted he would have loved the opportunity to feed off Scholes' sleight of foot.

'I played up front against Southampton last week with the man in behind, the role Paul played against France, and if you get that man on the ball and turning, those are the things I dream about,' he said.

'Vladimir Smicer did it for Liverpool. I got on the end of that and everybody saw the result with my two goals. With Paul it's the same.'

Cole also appreciated the service supplied by his Old Trafford team-mate, allowing the striker to produce his most convincing display in an England shirt even if that yearned-for first international goal remains

an elusive target.

For Keegan, it was clearly a successful experiment and, even if long overdue, the move was a positive one.

The coach said: 'At times Paul looked as if he could really cause them problems.'

'When he drops in there it makes that possible and there was some nice movement.'

'I'd like more time to work on it but there always has to be a place for Paul Scholes in my England side.'

That place should be playing off the front man. Scholes, undemonstrative and understated, is not the sort to shout the odds.

But he has rarely looked as comfortable as he did in such exalted company in the Stade de France.

Having found the solution, Keegan must not disregard it.

WORLD

McManaman to stay at Real

Real Madrid sporting director Jorge Valdano has confirmed that Steve McManaman will stay on at the club this season.

But Valdano, who also ruled out the signing of a centre-forward as cover for Fernando Morientes, warned the English midfielder he

has given up the right to protest if he finds himself spending more time on the bench than on the pitch.

"McManaman won't be leaving Real Madrid," Valdano said after Real's opening day 2-1 victory over Valencia, in which the former Liverpool man did not get off the bench.

"He's said that he wants to stay and fight for his place and that's something we value at Real Madrid.

He's the sort of player we want here.

"But we have repeated that he won't have many chances to play this year."



Steve McManaman

ZIDANE STAYSON AT JUVE

France and Juventus playmaker Zinedine Zidane has signed an extension to his contract with the Italian club until the end of the 2004/2005 season.

Zidane was the subject of transfer speculation throughout the summer with Barcelona and

Real Madrid both being linked with a move for the 1998 World Player of the Year.

"I have signed a contract extension which takes me to 2005," Zidane said on Juventus's official website. "I see no reason why I should go elsewhere."



Zinedine Zidane: Staying at Juventus.

BUFFON DROPS HIS SHIRT

Parma's Italian international goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon has strongly rejected allegations that he has neo-Nazi sympathies after a row erupted over his shirt number.

Buffon chose the number 88 as his Parma squad number, prompting a protest from the Italian Maccabi Association who said the number was used by neo-Nazi groups to signify Heil Hitler, as H is the eighth letter of the alphabet.

"My family taught me to respect others, so for me to have to answer these accusations is an insult to them.

"I was taught about the holocaust and anti-semitism and to be accused of such sympathies horrifies and hurts me," added the goalkeeper, who missed Euro 2000 due to a broken wrist.

Buffon said he had no idea of the number's use by neo-Nazis and offered to choose another number if his choice continued to cause offence.

"I am ready to change the shirt if it continues to cause problems for the Jewish community."

The accusations against Buffon follow a row over a T-shirt he wore last season bearing the message "Death to those who surrender", a slogan with fascist connotations in Italy.



Gianluigi Buffon

WORLD RESULTS ... WORLD RESULTS ...

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Derby County 2 Charlton Athletic 2, Bradford City 1 Arsenal 1, Coventry City 0 Leeds United 0, Ipswich Town 1 Aston Villa 2, Leicester City 1 Southampton 0, Liverpool 3 Manchester City 2, Man. United 3 Sunderland 0, Middlesbrough 1 Everton 2, Newcastle United 0 Chelsea 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Man Utd	5	3	2	0	14	3	11
2. Leicester City	5	3	2	0	4	1	11
3. Newcastle Utd	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
4. Liverpool	5	3	1	1	10	8	10
5. Arsenal	5	2	2	1	10	7	8
6. Leeds United	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
7. Everton	5	2	1	2	9	8	7
8. Tottenham Hotspur	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
9. Coventry City	5	2	1	2	5	7	7
10. Chelsea	5	1	3	1	7	7	6
11. Manchester City	5	2	0	3	9	12	6
12. Middlesbrough	5	1	2	2	9	9	5
13. Charlton Athletic	5	1	2	2	10	11	5
14. Aston Villa	4	1	2	1	4	5	5
15. Bradford City	5	1	2	2	3	8	5
16. Derby County	5	0	4	1	11	12	4
17. Ipswich Town	5	1	1	3	5	8	4
18. Sunderland	5	1	1	3	4	9	4
19. Southampton	5	0	3	2	7	9	3
20. West Ham United	4	0	2	2	5	8	2

LEADING SCORERS:

6 - Michael Owen (Liverpool)
5 - Francis Jeffers (Everton)
4 - Thierry Henry (Arsenal), Branko Strupar (Derby County)

ENGLISH FIRST DIVISION

Fulham 5 Barnsley 1, Birmingham 1 Sheffield United 0, Blackburn 3 Nottingham Forest 0, Crewe 0 Norwich 0, Crystal Palace 0 Burnley 1, Grimsby 1 Gillingham 0, Huddersfield 2 Bolton 3, Portsmouth 1 Watford 3, Queens Park Rangers 0 Preston 0, Sheffield Wednesday 0 Wimbledon 5, Stockport 0 West Bromwich 0, Wolverhampton 1 Tranmere 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Fulham	5	5	0	0	15	3	15
2. Watford	5	4	1	0	10	3	13
3. Bolton	5	4	1	0	9	3	13
4. Blackburn	5	3	2	0	9	3	11
5. Preston	6	3	2	1	7	4	11
6. Birmingham	5	3	1	1	8	5	10
7. Tranmere	6	3	1	2	7	7	10
8. Burnley	5	2	2	1	4	3	8
9. Nottingham Forest	5	2	1	2	5	7	7
10. West Bromwich	6	2	1	3	4	8	7
11. Wimbledon	5	1	3	1	6	2	6
12. Q's Pk Rangers	5	1	3	1	3	6	6
13. Stockport	6	1	3	2	6	8	6
14. Sheffield United	5	2	0	3	5	8	6
15. Barnsley	5	2	0	3	7	11	6
16. Crewe	5	1	2	2	3	5	5
17. Gillingham	6	1	2	3	6	9	5
18. Portsmouth	6	1	2	3	6	9	5
19. Wolverhampton	6	1	2	3	5	8	5
20. Sheff Wed	5	1	2	2	5	10	5
21. Huddersfield	5	1	1	3	7	9	4
22. Grimsby	5	1	1	3	3	6	4
23. Crystal Palace	6	1	1	4	5	9	4
24. Norwich	5	0	2	3	2	5	2

ENGLISH SECOND DIVISION

Bournemouth 1 Port Vale 1, Bristol City 0

Swindon Town 1, Bury 2 Walsall 0, Cambridge United 6 Rotherham United 1, Luton Town 0-Northampton Town 2, Millwall 1 Swansea City 0, Notts County 1 Bristol Rovers 1, Reading 4 Brentford 0, Stoke City 3 Peterborough United 0, Wigan Athletic 3 Colchester United 1, Wrexham 3 Oldham Athletic 1.

ENGLISH THIRD DIVISION

Barnet 0 Kidderminster Harriers 0, Blackpool 1 Hartlepool United 2, Cardiff City 1 Brighton & Hove Albion 1, Carlisle United 1 Rochdale 2, Cheltenham Town 0 Chesterfield 1, Leyton Orient 2 Hull City 2, Macclesfield Town 0 Exeter City 2, Mansfield Town 5 Halifax Town 1, 1 Darlington 0, Southend Utd 2 Plymouth Argyle 2, York City 2 Scunthorpe Utd 0.

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Aberdeen 1 St. Johnstone 1, Celtic 3 Hibernian 0, Dundee 1 Rangers 1, Heart of Midlothian 2 Dunfermline Athletic 0, Kilmarnock 1 Dundee United 0, St. Mirren 0 Motherwell 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Celtic	6	6	0	0	18	6	18
2. Hibernian	7	5	1	1	13	4	16
3. Rangers	6	4	1	1	16	12	13
4. Kilmarnock	7	3	1	3	9	10	10
5. Dundee	6	2	2	2	9	9	8
6. Dunfermline	7	2	2	3	4	10	8
7. Hearts	6	1	4	1	8	8	7
8. St Johnstone	6	1	4	1	8	7	7
9. Aberdeen	6	1	4	1	5	6	7
10. Motherwell	7	1	2	4	5	9	5
11. St Mirren	6	1	0	5	4	10	3
12. Dundee Utd	6	0	1	5	3	10	1

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

Airdrieonians 2 Alloa Athletic 2, Falkirk 2 Raith Rovers 1, Inverness Caly.Th. 1 Clyde 2, Livingston 2 Ayr Utd 0, Morton 0 Ross County 1.

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION

Arbroath 3 Forfar Athletic 4, Berwick Rangers 3 Clydebank 1, Queen of the South 1 Stranraer 4, Queen's Park 0 Partick Thistle 1, Stenhousemuir 0 Stirling Albion 2.

SCOTTISH THIRD DIVISION

Brechin City 6 Montrose 1, Dumbarton 1 East Stirlingshire 2, East Fife 0 Cowdenbeath 2, Elgin 1 Peterhead 3, Hamilton Academical 0 Albion Rovers 2.

SPANISH PRIMERA LIGA

Las Palmas 0 Alaves 3, Numancia 1 Real Oviedo 0, Osasuna 0 Celta Vigo 2, Real Mallorca 1 Valladolid 1, Villarreal 1 Rayo Vallecano 5, Barcelona 2 Malaga 2, Deportivo Coruna 2 Athletic Bilbao 0, Real Madrid 2 Valencia 1, Real Sociedad 2 Racing Santander 2, Real Zaragoza 1 Espanyol 2.

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Hansa Rostock 0 SC Freiburg 0, Energie Cottbus 2 Eintracht Frankfurt 0, VfB Stuttgart 2 Bayern Munich 1, TSV Munich 1860 1 Schalke 04 1, Cologne 1 Bayer Leverkusen 1, VfL Wolfsburg 2

Hertha Berlin 1, VfL Bochum 0 Hamburg SV 4, Werder Bremen 1 Borussia Dortmund 2, SpVgg Unterhaching 0 Kaiserslautern 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Schalke 04	4	3	1	0	10	2	10
2. Bayern Munich	4	3	0	1	11	4	9
3. Borussia Dortmund	4	3	0	1	9	5	9
4. 1860 Munich	4	2	2	0	8	6	8
5. Hamburg SV	4	2	1	1	8	7	7
6. Bayer Leverkusen	4	2	1	1	5	5	7
7. Hertha Berlin	4	2	0	2	10	6	6
8. SC Freiburg	4	1	3	0	5	1	6
9. Eintracht Frankfurt	4	2	0	2	8	6	6
10. VfL Wolfsburg	4	2	0	2	7	6	6
11. VfB Stuttgart	4	2	0	2	6	7	6
12. Cologne	4	1	2	1	6	4	5
13. Kaiserslautern	4	1	1	2	1	5	4
14. Werder Bremen	4	1	0	3	6	7	3
15. Energie Cottbus	4	1	0	3	4	10	3
16. VfL Bochum	4	1	0	3	1	11	3
17. SpVgg Unter.	4	0	2	2	1	5	2
18. Hansa Rostock	4	0	1	3	0	9	1

LEADING SCORERS

5 - Ebbe Sand (Schalke 04) Emile Mpenza (Schalke 04) Carsten Jancker (Bayern Munich)
4 - Heiko Herrlich (Borussia Dortmund) Paul Agostino (1860 Munich)
3 - Horst Heldt (Eintracht Frankfurt) Andrzej Juskowiak (VfL Wolfsburg) Sergej Barbarez (Hamburg SV) Ulf Kirsten (Bayer Leverkusen)

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

Toulouse 2 Olympique Marseille 0, Sedan 1 Monaco 0, Paris St Germain 5 St Etienne 1, Olympique Lyon 3 RC Lens 0, AJ Auxerre 2 Nantes 2, Girondins Bordeaux 0 En Avant Guingamp 2, Lille 1 Troyes 2, Rennes 0 Metz 1, Strasbourg 1 Bastia 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Bastia	7	5	0	2	11	5	15
2. RC Lens	7	4	2	1	9	7	14
3. Paris St Germain	7	4	1	2	17	11	13
4. Troyes	7	3	2	2	12	11	11
5. Metz	7	3	2	2	6	5	11
6. Nantes	7	3	2	2	12	14	11
7. Lille	7	3	1	3	9	6	10
8. Olympique Lyon	7	2	4	1	9	7	10
9. Sedan	6	3	1	2	7	6	10
10. Olym. Marseille	7	3	1	3	10	10	10
11. AJ Auxerre	7	3	1	3	9	9	10
12. St Etienne	7	2	3	2	13	14	9
13. Monaco	7	2	2	3	8	11	8
14. En Avant Guing.	7	2	1	4	9	11	7
15. Stade Rennes	6	1	3	2	7	6	6
16. Girondins Bord.	7	1	3	3	9	9	6
17. Toulouse	7	1	3	3	7	8	6
18. Strasbourg	7	1	0	6	6	20	3

LEADING SCORERS

6 - Laurent Robert (Paris St Germain), Frederic Nee (Bastia)
5 - Nicolas Anelka (Paris St Germain)
4 - Sladjan Djukic (Troyes), Steve Marlet (Olympique Lyon)

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

NEC Nijmegen 1 Utrecht 1, Sparta Rotterdam 3 RBC Roosendaal 5, Ajax Amsterdam 3 Groningen 1, Graafschap Doetinchem 4 AZ Alkmaar 2, Heerenveen 2 NAC Breda 1, Roda JC Kerkrade 2 Twente Enschede 2, Willem II Tilburg 2 Vitesse Arnhem 2, Feyenoord 3 RKC Waalwijk

1. Fortuna Sittard 0 PSV Eindhoven 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Feyenoord	3	3	0	0	7	2	9
2. NEC Nijmegen	5	2	3	0	12	8	9
3. RKC Waalwijk	5	3	0	2	7	6	9
4. Ajax Amsterdam	4	2	1	1	8	4	7
5. Vitesse Arnhem	4	2	1	1	11	8	7
6. PSV Eindhoven	4	2	1	1	8	5	7
7. Heerenveen	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
8. Roda JC Kerkrade	4	1	3	0	8	6	6
9. Willem II Tilburg	4	1	3	0	7	5	6
10. Graafschap Doet.	4	1	2	2	8	13	5
11. Groningen	4	1	1	1	4	4	4
12. Utrecht	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
13. Sparta Rotterdam	4	1	1	2	9	12	4
14. NAC Breda	4	1	1	2	7	5	4
15. RBC Roosendaal	4	1	0	3	8	11	3
16. AZ Alkmaar	4	1	0	3	5	9	3
17. Twente Enschede	3	0	2	2	6	9	2
18. Fortuna Sittard	3	0	0	3	0	10	0

BELGIAN FIRST DIVISION

Club Bruges 3 La Louviere 0, Eendracht Aalst 2 Lokeren 2, Harelbeke 3 Germinal Beerschot 0, Beveren 2 Genk 0, Charleroi 2 Lierse 0, Antwerp 0 Anderlecht 3, Sint-Truiden 1 Excelsior Mouscron 4, Westerlo 0 Ghent 0, Mechelen 0 Standard Liege 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1. Club Bruges	5	5	0	0	18	4	15
2. Anderlecht	5	4	1	0	17	4	13
3. Excelsior Mouscron	5	4	0	1	15	4	12
4. Charleroi	5	4	0	1	12	8	12
5. Westerlo	5	3	1	1	7	5	10
6. Ghent	5	3	1	1	10	9	10
7. Lierse	5	3	0	2	7	4	9
8. Standard Liege	5	3	0	2	11	8	9
9. Lokeren	5	2	2	1	8	7	8
10. Germinal Beers.	5	2	0	3	6	8	6
11. Beveren	5	2	0	3	4	9	6
12. Genk	5	1	2	2	6	7	5
13. Harelbeke	5	1	1	3	8	13	4
14. Antwerp	5	1	0	4	3	7	3
15. Sint-Truiden	5	0	2	3	4	9	2
16. La Louviere	5	0	2	3	2	13	1
17. Eendracht Aalst	5	0	1	4	5	14	1
18. Mechelen	5	0	1	4	4	14	1

AUSTRALIA'S OLYMPIC TEAM



Australia's
Olympic captain:
Brett Emerton.



Hayden Foxe



Michael Turnbull



Jason Culina

Australian coach: Raul Blanco



Con Blaisie



Joel Skoko

**AUSTRALIA'S
OLYMPIC DRAW**
Wednesday, September 15
Australia vs Italy
MCG 8pm
Saturday, September 18
Australia vs Nigeria
SFS 8pm
Tuesday, September 21
Australia vs Honduras
SFS 8pm



BACK ROW (left to right): Simon Colosimo, Vince Grella, Clayton Zane, Kasey Weinman, Lucas Neill, Stephen Laybutt.
FRONT ROW (left to right): Danny Lillesand, Marco Bresciano, Nick Rizzo, Michael Curcija, Steve Lazzaridis.



Mark Viduka

SOCCER